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LD2705125388 [Editorial Report]

Lebanon

Syrian Deployment—Some 400 Syrian troops and internal security forces began their deployment in Beirut's southern suburb in accordance with a plan adopted to separate the warring Shi'ite groups, Amal and Hizballah, the clandestine Voice of the Mountain radio announced 27 May. The radio added that Amal and Hizballah gunmen vacated their positions prior to the Syrian entry.

The Syrian move came after "fierce clashes" between the rival Shi'ites, Voice of Lebanon radio reported, adding that one Hizballah gunman was killed. A report from the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed radio accused Amal of sparking the incident by "indiscriminately" firing missiles into "peaceful areas" of the suburb.

The agreement on the entry was reached during a 3-hour meeting between Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad and a Hizballah delegation, the clandestine Voice of the Oppressed disclosed earlier.

The parties decided that Syrian forces should be deployed in the suburb to establish a cease-fire and ensure the withdrawal of all gunmen; that the Amal and Hizballah bureaus will be converted to "political and information offices;" that the two groups will "maintain a military presence on the contact lines"; and that the Syrian soldiers who enter the suburb will be gradually replaced by "internal security forces."

Syrian Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, who returned to the troubled city to supervise the deployment, held consultations with various military, civilian, and religious authorities, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

AFP disclosed that Gen Kan'an escaped an "assassination attempt" unscathed, adding that his armored Mercedes was sprayed with machinegun fire as it left the home of Hizballah figure Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah. Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, commander of the Syrian forces in Lebanon, told the agency that the attack would not affect Syria's determination "to save the suburb."

The clandestine Voice of the Oppressed declared Hizballah's condemnation of the "treacherous attempt" on Kan'an's life and charged that "enemies of Islam" were trying to damage relations between Syria and Hizballah.

Israeli, SLA Withdrawal—Israeli and SLA troops withdrew from the Al-Luwayzah area after having destroyed "fundamentalist strongholds," Voice of Lebanon radio reported.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian speedboats opened fire on a Maltese ship and a tugboat in the Strait of Hormuz 27 May, Radio Monte Carlo reported. According to AFP, the Liberian-registered "Mundo Gas Rio" was also attacked by Iranian boats in the southern Gulf.

A communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio announced that Iraqi warplanes carried out a "successful raid" on the Emam Hasan oil field and that air defense units shot down an Iranian F-5 east of Basra.

The communique reported very minor action in the III Army Corps region which includes the recently liberated Shalamcheh area.

In remarks carried by Tehran television, Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati declared that although the Islamic forces "retreated a little" from Shalamcheh, they "made progress" in other areas.

This is not unusual in a protracted conflict, he explained, stressing that "up to now" the political and military "trend" of the war has favored the Islamic Republic.

Velayati also reiterated his country's stand on UN Resolution 598. Iran will "stand firm" before the aggressor and speak in the "only language he understands: the language of force," Velayati asserted.

Afghanistan

Muhammad Hasan Sharq was appointed prime minister designate and empowered to form a new government to be presented to the first session of the People's Assembly, according to a presidential decree carried by Kabul radio.

The PDPA Politburo expressed "profound appreciation" to current Prime Minister Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand and recommended him for Afghanistan's highest medal, the radio reported.

The Politburo also agreed that, in view of Keshtmand's "great experience in party affairs," he should be appointed secretary of the PDPA Central Committee.

In other preparations for the convening of the new legislature, the Revolutionary Council held a final session during which it approved a number of laws including a Council of Minister's recommendation that the domestic and foreign trade ministries be merged, Kabul radio reported.

Tunisia-Ethiopia

Following a meeting between Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali and Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Miriam on the sidelines of the OAU summit, it was announced that the two countries have decided to restore diplomatic relations in the interests of the "strengthening of African unity and solidarity," Tunis radio reported. Addis Ababa radio recalled that ties were severed in 1975.

Sudan

An opposition spokesman cited by the clandestine SPLA radio denied that government troops recently killed several hundred rebel soldiers in the Upper Nile-Kurdofan region and he made the counteraccusation that the Army and militia perpetrated a "massacre" of civilians in the area.

Israel

Two West Bank Arabs, a Tulkarm resident shot by the IDF 3 months ago and a 14-year-old youth shot 2 days ago, died 27 May, IDF radio reported.

Palestinian Affairs

PLO's 'Arafat on 'Third Ultimatum' by U.S.

JN2605175688 Sanaa Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpt] The eighth congress of the General Union of the Workers of Palestine opened its proceedings on 24 May 1988 in Sidi Faraj near Algiers under the slogan: The Session of the Palestinian Uprising.

The opening was attended by Brother Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian Revolution Forces. The brother commander in chief disclosed that the murder of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] was executed by the Mosad after they secured prior approval of the U.S. Administration.

He also disclosed that the U.S. Administration on 24 May 1988 issued the third ultimatum to the PLO, via the foreign ministry of an Arab country, which threatened the PLO and its leadership.

Brother Abu 'Ammar said: I say to the U.S. Administration and military gangs that Abu Jihad's murder will not halt the Palestinian revolution. The Palestinian revolution will continue until victory. The occupants of the [White] House must understand that rather than being bullied, we bully others, and rather than being intimidated we intimidate others.

Abu 'Ammar added that what is happening now in our occupied land and in southern Lebanon is especially grave. It is the 11th hour struggle for the survival of this nation. [passage omitted]

'Arafat Comments After Meeting With Mubarak

NC2605133588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1240 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Addis Ababa, 26 May (MENA)—PLO Executive Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has stated that he discussed a number of major issues, particularly the Palestinian and Middle East problems, with President Husni Mubarak during their meeting in Addis Ababa yesterday evening.

The Palestinian leader asserted that he is eager to meet with President Mubarak at every opportunity.

'Arafat said: Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has informed us that the Middle East issue will take priority among the urgent issues of the world to be discussed during the U.S.-USSR summit, with special emphasis on the question of an international peace conference.

The Palestinian leader believes that the international conference for peace in the Middle East should be held under UN auspices. He stressed that it should be attended by the permanent members of the UN Security Council and all parties concerned, including the PLO, on an equal footing. 'Arafat was asked what the PLO wants from Egypt in the current stage. He expressed the hope that Egypt will continue to shoulder its historical and moral responsibility toward the Palestinians and their rights.

He was asked whether a joint Syrian-Palestinian working paper will be presented during the next Arab summit in Algiers on 7 June. He denied the existence of a Syrian-Palestinian paper, stating that a Palestinian working paper will be presented to the Arab League.

'Arafat spoke about the uprising in the occupied Arab territories. He said that this matter will be one of the topics to be raised during the emergency Arab summit. He said the major points to be discussed will be the support, assistance, and ecouragement of the Palestinian people's uprising by all possible means.

'Arafat said the second issue to be discussed at the emergency summit will be the Gulf war, which he described as an important matter. He continued: The Amman summit was held to discuss the Gulf war and discussed the Palestinian issue. Similarly, he added, the summit dedicated to the Palestinian issue will discuss the Gulf war.

PLO Wants Gulf War Included on Summit Agenda

JN2605142388 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1330 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, 26 May (INA)—The PLO has officially requested that the issue of the Iraq-Iran war be included on the agenda of the extraordinary Arab summit which will be convened in Algiers on 7 June.

This was announced today by 'Azzam al-Ahmad, director of the PLO office in Baghdad, in a statement to INA. He said this request was made because it constitutes an important step toward consolidating Arab solidarity through the finding of a joint Arab understanding to contain this war and to find a unified stand on it.

AL-HAWADITH Interviews PLO's Qaddumi

PM2605101788 London AL-HAWADITH in Arabic 27 May 88 p 31

[Interview with Faruq Qaddumi, head of the PLO Political Department, also identified by his nom de guerre Abu al-Lutf, by Husayn al-Tantawi in Jeddah; date not given]

[Text] AL-HAWADITH: Tell us about your current tour of the Arab countries.

Qaddumi: The tour is in implementation of Palestinian decisions that we consult with our brothers on recent developments and brief them on the uprising and its achievements and also work to materialize the idea of an emergency Arab summit conference to coordinate Arab efforts.

A subcommittee emanating from the [PLO] Executive Committee and acting on its instructions is currently drafting a Palestinian working paper to be submitted to the emergency Arab summit conference in Algiers. The uprising will be the most important issue in that paper—that is, ways of supporting it and ensuring its continuation.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there anything new on relations with Syria?

Qaddumi: Palestinian-Syrian relations have taken a qualitative leap forward within a very short timespan. These relations are now normal and a dialogue is in progress on all issues of interest for the purpose of maintaining joint Arab action, bolstering Arab solidarity, and standing united as one Arab nation in the face of the challenges posed by the enemies of the nation.

AL-HAWADITH: What level of national unity has been reached with the other Palestinian factions based in Syria?

Qaddumi: National unity is now a confirmed reality which cannot be harmed following the historic cohesion achieved in the framework and under the supervision of the PNC during the Algiers session. The Syrian-Palestinian meeting then came to strengthen that unity through dialogue with the other brothers who did not attend the PNC session.

The martyrdom of Brother Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] has further strengthened Palestinian unity of ranks. Just as he enhanced Palestinian dialogue when he was alive, his martyrdom has also boosted these dialogues in the interest of a stronger and more solid PLO political position.

AL-HAWADITH: What is the position regarding the dissidents?

Qaddumi: That issue is not important. We will absorb every Palestinian in the PLO because the PLO is an umbrella for all Palestinians who do not lose track of the objectives, who do not undermine Palestinian decisions, and who do not deviate from the course of the revolution and behave improperly. All these criteria will apply to all those who have taken a course contrary to that of the PLO.

AL-HAWADITH: When will you go back to Damascus?

Qaddumi: At the first opportunity.

AL-HAWADITH: What was the debate like in Damascus on the Shultz initiative, which he officially submitted to Syrian officials?

Qaddumi: There is no U.S. initiative. There is a danger threatening to swallow up the uprising and an attempt to contain it. The Arab nation has not accepted it. It has rejected it and so have our friends in the world and our Syrian brothers. The plan excludes the PLO from the talks and does not cover the Palestinian people's national rights.

AL-HAWADITH: Is there Arab coordination aimed at rejecting the initiative?

Qaddumi: Yes, there is Arab coordination. We have held consultations with many Arab states, particularly the confrontation states, Syria and Jordan, on this matter. As I have said, there has been a categorical Syrian rejection [of the initiative].

AL-HAWADITH: What is the latest on Jordanian-Palestinian relations in the wake of the visit to Jordan of the PLO delegation consisting of Fatah Central Committee Members Salim al-Za'nun and Rafiq al-Natshah?

Qaddumi: Our relations with the brothers in Jordan are normal. We are continuously holding consultations with Arab officials on current developments on the Palestinian and Arab levels and the PLO's position on these developments, particularly with the approach of the Arab summit conference, where understanding will be reached regarding our Arab nation's future decisions on confrontation with Zionism.

AL-HAWADITH: What about the uprising, now in its 6th month, and what effect has it had on Israeli society and the world?

Qaddumi: The uprising of our people in the occupied territory is a natural expression of their rejection of the Israeli occupation and its continuation on Palestinian soil and of the Palestinian people's determination to regain their inalienable rights. The struggle will continue by all available means, including armed struggle in the occupied territory, but not acts of terrorism abroad that would undermine the security of world states.

The increasing Israeli terrorist and repressive practices against our people inside [the occupied territory] are a violation of all human values and an attempt to impose a fait accompli on the Palestinian people, whose answer has been an uprising emphasizing to the whole world that the Palestinians want peace, but not at their expense, and that there can be no peace in the Middle East except on the basis of Palestinian self-determination, an end to the Israeli occupation and withdrawal of Israeli forces, and the creation of an independent Palestinian state.

Over the past 6 months the uprising has had a great impact on Israeli society, causing considerable confusion, divisions, and tremors in that society. It has also weakened Israeli society's ability to grow and develop, polarized sympathy and effective political support in most world states, and greatly influenced U.S. public opinion. The fact that the world media are talking about the uprising and condemning Israeli terrorist practices is proof of that.

AL-HAWADITH: Is Arab aid, in your view, sufficient for the continuation of the uprising?

Qaddumi: Actually, it is not and the Arab brothers know that and are willing to provide more aid. The Arab foreign ministers have already noted this fact at their Tunis meeting. We expect the Arab summit conference to take the necessary pan-Arab decisions in this connection when it convenes in Algiers.

Fatah 'Six-Man Committee' Takes on Al-Wazir Role

PM2605084388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 May 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Six-Man Committee Under 'Arafat To Assume Abu Jihad's Duties]

[Text] London, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—The Fatah Central Committee has decided to form a six-man committee to lead the western sector of the occupied territories previously under the martyr Khalil al-Wazir—"Abu Jihad."

AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that the committee—chaired by Yasir 'Arafat and comprising Hayil 'Abd al-Hamid, Rafiq al-Natshah "Abu Shakir," Hani al-Hasan, Abu al-Mu'tasim, and Akram Haniyah—will assume duties temporarily for a period of 6 weeks to assess the situation in the western sector, after which the question of appointing an official to assume the mission permanently will be discussed.

Factions Meet in Damascus, Discuss Beirut Camps

JN2505184688 (Clandestine) Al-Quds Palestinian Arab Radio in Arabic 1600 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The central command of the Palestinian resistance factions met at the PNC headquarters in Damascus today. Attending were brothers and comrades Khalid al-Fahum, 'Abd al-Muhsin Abu Mayzar, Dr Samir Ghawshah, Talal Naji, Abu Mahir al-Yamani [Ahmad al-Yamani], Fadl Shururu, Muhammad Khalifah, Sami Qandil, Abu Saji, Abu Layla, and Abu Jasim.

The conferees reviewed what was implemented by the seven-member central committee in the Beirut camps. The central command of the Palestinian resistance factions in Damascus also discussed the development of the general situation in Palestine and the escalation of the uprising, particularly today, the day of general strike in Palestine.

Algeria

Accord With Morocco Called 'Message of Hope'

PM2505115088 Algiers EL MOUDJAHID in French 18 May 88 p 2

["Ak. H." commentary: "The Maghreb Is the Beneficiary"]

[Text] It is abnormal for two countries which share a civilization, culture, and common borders not to have diplomatic relations. The announcement on Monday by Algeria and Morocco of the immediate restoration of these relations therefore consecrates the return to a normality which is strongly desired by the two fraternal peoples. It corresponds to an urgent need of the present time with its hopes, and challenges, which must be taken up if we wish to avoid being left behind historically and economically.

This clearly reveals the elements of the Maghreb question of which the process now started in Algerian-Moroccan relations is naturally part. The range of possibilities for this process seems broad and promising, and full of confidence and potential. In view of this, we must stress the positive nature of the approach, which was recently sped up in keeping with the continuation of direct contacts and the need for confidence.

Confidence, depth of conviction, strength of will, and wisdom are the qualities which form the basis for constructive dialogue and can open wide the door to the future. President Chadli Bendjedid and King Hassan II certainly do not lack these qualities and they have just brought this approach to a happy conclusion in full sovereignty.

Indeed, it must be said that this was not done by magic. This initial important result of the efforts made by both sides, which must be distinguished from temporary fluctuations in the situation, is indicative of what can and should still be done at the bilateral level and in the context of a region which aspires to be in tune with progress, modernity, and the well-being of the people, in a word, with development.

In this context, there is no doubt that the dynamic Maghreb process, which started with the Treaty of Fraternity and Concord in 1983, is likely to experience a real boost. The weight of all the Maghreb peoples and the sum of their respective economic potential serving the ideal of Maghreb unity are logically bound to speed up the realization of this ideal. President Chadli Bendjedid, who has resolutely committed Algeria to this course, has never failed to recall that the Greater Arab Maghreb will be built with the participation of all its component peoples, without the exclusion of any.

The form which this normalization takes must be further clarified by the gradual removal of all the obstacles which caused the break in relations between the two countries. It is a question of political courage and determination which will certainly not be lacking now that the first, most difficult, and most decisive step has been taken. The joint communique is already proof of that, when it expresses support "for a just and final solution to the Western Sahara conflict through a free and properly conducted referendum on self-determination held in complete sincerity and without any constraints."

If there is reason to be optimistic, it is also because Algeria will continue to make every effort, as it has always done, to find a peaceful solution to the fratricidal conflict between the Kingdom of Morocco and the SDAR.

At a time when those who like to raise the stakes have once again seized the opportunity to dissociate themselves, this optimism is also justified by the fact that the document reaffirms "the full validity of the treaties, conventions, and agreements reached between the Governments of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria and the Kingdom of Morocco." In this connection, it is worth recalling that there is absolutely no conflict or dispute between Algeria and Morocco which has not been settled by these bilateral treaties, conventions, or agreements.

The reestablishment of Algerian-Moroccan relations, which took place at the end of Ramadan, is a message of hope for the whole Arab and Islamic world whose internal solidarity and cohesion is one of the main commandments of the religion which unites its members, instead of the devastating conflicts which accentuate their damaging divisions. At a crucial point in its development, the Palestinian revolution in particular will benefit from dealing with a new united bloc which draws its strength from restored fraternity and its pledge to build the Maghreb edifice and [unfinished sentence as published].

Chad

Al-Qadhdhafi Recognition Statement Scrutinized

AB2605202488 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French 1845 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Al-Qadhdhafi has been maneuvering again, no doubt to make people forget the disdain that he has always had for the OAU. While Chad continues to contribute loyally to the efforts of the pan-African organization to find a peaceful end to the border conflict between the two countries, Al-Qadhdhafi, cloaked in the policy of absenteeism, has been true to form by his absence from the Addis Ababa summit, despite the insistence of the Gabonese head of state, Omar Bongo, current chairman of the OAU ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libya conflict.

This new Libyan absence has strengthened the pessimism of observers about a peaceful solution. They are (?certainly bound) to further isolate Al-Qadhdhafi's Libya on the international scene, as it is indeed true that Al-Qadhdhafi's (?escapism) continues to irritate African leaders.

Faithful to his chameleon policy, Al-Qadhdhafi has been maneuvering. But, does there exist on this planet anyone likely to give credence to any of his declarations, given that lack of respect for one's word has (?become a methodology) in Libya?

One can thus easily understand the reaction of President Hissein Habre, (?expressed) this morning in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (?as part of a routine statement). If it is true that that statement is correct, said the head of state, it [words indistinct] something positive. President Hissein Habre, however, categorically rejected any interference in Chad's internal affairs.

[Begin recording] [Radio Chad correspondent Moussa Dago in Addis Ababa] If these proposals from (?the Libyan camp) were greatly appreciated in Addis Ababa, they did not incite any particular reaction from the Chadian delegation. (?They know them) [words indistinct] Al-Qadhdhafi's brilliant (?declarations) without any effect. Let us listen in this connection to President Hissein Habre's reaction recorded this morning shortly before his departure for the opening of the OAU summit:

[Habre] Well, first of all, I do not have at hand the exact content of Al-Qadhdhafi's statement. Nevertheless, (?I think) that if Libya is disposed to renew its diplomatic relations with Chad, it is a good (?starting point). [passage indistinct]

For its part, Chad has always sought to (?end) the [word indistinct] war between the two countries so that the two countries can work in [words indistinct] relations of good-neighborliness and, why not, even cooperation. This being said, considering that Al-Qadhdhafi (?is in the habit of) making contradictory statements, especially since in the same statement it appeared that he once again [words indistinct] and he wants to interfere in our internal affairs.

It is on this point that we do not agree with Al-Qadhdhafi nor [words indistinct] to interfere in Chad's affairs. Chad remains a great country. Chadians are big enough to take care of their own affairs.

[Dago] With that said, let us come back to results of the OAU ad hoc committee meeting that was held yesterday. The president of the Republic has not yet commented on this. He said he had in his possession all the elements of that meeting, and that he was (?waiting for) the examination of the issue by the assembly of the heads of state before saying anything on it.

Having said that, we should mention that President Hissein Habre has had more informal contacts today. He first received in his residence Colonel Ali Saibou, head of state of Niger, with whom he had discussions for the first time ever.

He also had a first meeting with Zine El Abidine Ben Ali, the Tunisian head of state, with whom he had a long private discussion (?during the recess) in the conference in Africa Hall.

The head of state then held talks with Captain Blaise Compaore of Burkina Faso and the first state commissioner of Zaire, Citizen Sambwa Pida N'Bagui. It may be noted that all these personalities were received by President Habre [words indistinct]. [end recording]

Egypt

Mubarak Comments on OAU, African Debts, Libya

NC2605144688 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1356 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—Upon his return to Cairo this afternoon, President Husni Mubarak stated that the 24th OAU session is still discussing economic issues and working to resolve differences among African brothers. The president remarked that such differences are common to all world organizations.

In his statement, President Mubarak pointed to Egypt's role in Africa, saying that Egypt is one of the major founding members of the OAU.

The president commended the OAU's achievements since its establishment, saying that in 25 years the organization has achieved what was thought impossible to achieve in 50 years.

He said it is enough that the OAU has been holding a summit every year and that the majority of African countries have been liberated from imperialism. If this were its only achievement, the president added, it would be a great one.

Asked about a recent statement by Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev regarding the convocation of an international summit to discuss African debts and debt cancellations by creditor countries, the president responded: I hope so.

Asked whether there was Yemeni mediation to reconcile Egypt and Libya, the president said:

There is nothing wrong between me and Al-Qadhdhafi. There is also nothing wrong between the Egyptian people and the Libyan people. We want Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi to mean what he says. All we want is to have good-neighborly relations with him.

YAR's Salih Cited on Military, 'Blood' Ties

NC2705062588 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2130 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] Cairo, 26 May (MENA)—YAR leader Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih has described the relations between Egypt and the YAR as one of blood that flowed to protect the Yemeni revolution and consolidate the republican regime in Yemen. [passage omitted]

In a statement to AL-AHRAM, published in its Friday issue, Salih declared that the YAR has obtained part of its arms requirements from Egypt. He stressed his country's pride in Egypt's military industrialization and said the YAR is ready to support the promotion of this type of production.

He expressed his hope that military industry will continue to develop in the Arab world so the Arabs will be able to meet their needs through one another.

Salih declared that he will continue his efforts to achieve Arab reconciliation. Along these lines he plans to meet with Libyan leader Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi while en route to Algeria to continue efforts to end the rupture and resolve the differences between Egypt and Libya.

He pointed out he will brief President Mubarak in the coming days on what has been achieved to end the Libyan-Egyptian dispute. He also noted that the differences between Egypt and Algeria are the result of a simple misunderstanding, which is not worth this rupture.

He said both parties have shown the will to resolve these differences and to take the necessary steps to normalize ties between their two fraternal countries.

Salih expressed his hope Egypt would return to the Arab League to assume its basic pioneer role in serving the Arab nation. He also said he will visit Egypt in the near future following the Consultative Council elections. [passage omitted]

Libya

U.S. Aircraft Allegedly Buzzes Freighter

LD2605212488 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 2025 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, 26 May (JANA)—A U.S. aircraft belonging to the 6th Fleet buzzed the Libyan Arab freighter "Al-Jazair" at 1523 this afternoon. The incident occurred while the vessel was on its way to a Spanish port, at latitude 36° 33' and longitude 52° [coordinates as received] 62 nautical miles from the Spanish town of Cartagena.

This provocative act by the U.S. military aircraft against a Libyan Arab freighter is a threat to the safety of international navigation on the high seas and endangers shipping.

The Great Jamahiriyah reserves the right to pursue the matter [word indistinct] before the competent international authorities.

'Dramatic Downturn' in Ties With Iran Alleged

LD2505222688 Belgrade TANJUG in English 2144 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Tripoli, May 25 (TANJUG)—Libyan-Iranian relations have experienced a dramatic downturn over the past few days since Libya, until now one of the only two Iranian allies in the Arab world—the other is Syria—decided to quit propaganda manoeuvring and "open fire" directly at Tehran over its political positions, "incompatible with the declared essence of the Iranian revolution."

The latest edition of the official Libyan newspaper MUNTIJUN frontpages an unprecedented censure of Tehran's policy, prompted by a recent statement by the Iranian deputy foreign minister who said that Tehran "has nothing against the entry of Syrian troops into the southern suburbs of Beirut if this should lead to an end of hostilities between the quarrelling Shi'ite factions."

The author of the article, obviously someone in the highest Libyan leadership, asks: "Who has authorized Iran to oppose or approve of something happening in a land which is not Iranian?"

He goes on to inquire whether Iran "knocked on any Arab door to ask permission [words indistinct] in the internal affairs of Arab Lebanon."

Noting that the only "justification" for Iran's interference is the malignant idea of setting up a Shi'ite state in Lebanon, the writer asks whether Iran is even today the Shah's country which has put on a mask of revolution."

The censure of Iran rests on the thesis that "poking one's nose" in Lebanon amounts to a classical case of interference by "foreigners," the consequences of which will be detrimental and lead to Iran losing its present allies.

Libya calls on Tehran to urgently review its stands and on the Iranian ayatollahs to "offer clear proof that they have no expansionist intentions towards Arab Lebanon," in order to "make it possible to preserve the thin thread of the extant alliance."

In the past few months Iran has been repeatedly criticized by top Libyan officials for being one of those responsible for continuation of the senseless Gulf war.

Nevertheless, Libyan leader Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has been careful to prevent Libya's criticism of Iran from taking on the overtones of a confrontation between the two countries. Now, however, relations between Tripoli and Tehran will very likely be exposed to major trials in the near future.

Jabir Receives Sudanese Military Official

LD2605215988 Tripoli Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Colonel Abu Bakr Yunis Jabir, commander in chief of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces, this morning received Major General Musa'd Nuwayri Ahmad, director of the Sudanese Military Academy, and the delegation accompanying him, who are visiting the Jamahiriyah.

Morocco

Ties With Algeria Termed 'Promising Beginning'

PM2605101688 Casablanca LE MATIN DU SAHARA in French 21 May 88 pp 1,2

[Ahmed Alaoui editorial: "Building the Greater Maghreb"]

[Text] The restoration of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria paves the way for building the union of the Greater Maghreb.

This initiative by the two heads of state—President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty Hassan II—has launched a real process. It is just a beginning, but it is a promising beginning because it is based on a firm foundation and a sincere and practical commitment.

It is not a vague statement of intention, but the expression of a firm common will, as is stressed by the communique which stipulates that the two sides "are taking as their basis the common destiny of the fraternal Moroccan and Algerian peoples, and their desire to promote permanent relations of peace, good-neighborliness, and cooperation between themselves."

This communique is a landmark in the Maghreb's recent history; we can say that a new chapter has begun.

This decision clearly lays the foundations of the union so ardently desired by the Maghreb peoples, by their intellectual elites, and by their young people. There are two reasons for this.

The first is that there has hitherto been a major obstacle to the building of Maghreb unity: It is the crisis, to put it mildly, which has existed between Morocco and Algeria for almost 13 years.

It is obvious that nothing practical, valuable, or lasting could be achieved until that obstacle was removed. That is the precondition for any action.

This major obstacle has now been removed. Moreover, this is the most important point, now that the two countries have resumed normal relations, the process has been started and we do not think that it can be stopped.

The second reason is that the concept of a united Maghreb presupposes unity between Morocco and Algeria. There cannot be a Maghreb without Moroccan-Algerian accord.

Of course, the Maghreb is more than just Morocco and Algeria, but it is a fact and an obvious reality that the two countries form the framework of the Maghreb because of their population, their economic potential, their geostrategic position, and the leading role they play on the international scene.

Without wishing to play down the role of the other Maghreb countries, any union depends necessarily on Algiers and Rabat, and, to cite a famous expression, on detente, accord, and cooperation between the two countries, although, ethically and morally, all members of the Maghreb are equal.

This is so true that the normalization of relations between Rabat and Algiers has been received with satisfaction and relief in the international sphere, and in the Arab world, Europe, America, Africa, and Asia.

The two sides state that they are "motivated by the strong determination to help to close Arab ranks behind the Palestinian people's sacred cause by using all available means to strengthen the heroic uprising in the occupied territories and by stepping up collective Arab action with a view to satisfying the Palestinian people's national rights, including their right to create a state in their homeland, to liberate all the occupied Arab territories, including the holy city of Jerusalem, and to work to strengthen the African Continent's unity and to continue the liberation of the African people."

We must pay tribute to leaders who, with the highest sense of responsibility, have had the wisdom to avoid a conflict, even at times of extreme tension.

By avoiding the worst in this way, they have been able to safeguard what is essential. They have been able to maintain dialogue and contacts in the same way.

What is also important is that the communique accurately points to the way of overcoming the crisis: in other words, the resumption of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria.

We must now set to work to build the Greater Maghreb. It is a lengthy task which will be carried out in several stages, but the essential thing now is to begin. The reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Morocco and Algeria, as the joint communique specifies; the opening of borders; and the free circulation of people, the written word, and ideas, are very positive measures further strengthened by the implementation of conventions concluded between the two countries.

The communique also reaffirms "the full validity of the treaties, conventions, and agreements concluded and ratified by the government of the Kingdom of Morocco and the government of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria."

In particular, the two countries are bound by a residence convention, like those which exist with other Maghreb countries, which allows every Maghrebi to settle wherever he wishes, and this is a crucial point with regard to Maghrebian economic and, eventually, political integration.

The important thing at the beginning is for there to be good intentions and for a process to be started. Whether the aim is to achieve a union, a confederation, a federation, or an association, whatever the formula, the essential thing is the objective: the Greater Maghreb.

It must also be said that the Maghrebi peoples have an acute sense of unity, and they have Maghrebian awareness and Maghrebian feelings, as was shown by the demonstrations of joy on both sides of the border which greeted the announcement of the reestablishment of relations between Morocco and Algeria. Both sides are predisposed toward unity, an account must be made of this will of the people, and any action which might thwart it must be avoided.

Conditions are right for forging ahead. The officials are in agreement and are fully convinced of the need to build the Greater Maghreb, as the grass roots—in other words, the peoples—have always been, and they must not be disappointed.

The Greater Maghreb will not be built in a day, but we must move quickly. At the end of the century, there will be 100 million Maghrebis. Each country will be able to release its products into a market of 100 million consumers because economic realities exist over and above ideologies.

Moreover, unity is part of the Maghreb's historical path and it must unite. Political genius consists of speeding up the inevitable. So, we must move forward boldly and rapidly, particularly because the Greater Maghreb will give a new dimension to the Arab nation, of which it constitutes half in terms of its potential and its position.

The building of the Greater Maghreb is, therefore, consistent with the interests of the Maghreb peoples, the Arab world, Africa, and the Islamic community. The Greater Maghreb will, therefore, be able to play a considerable role in world affairs because it will be a partner which is heeded, respected, and influential.

We must not forget that Europe was built despite the three wars which were fought between France and Germany in less than a century. If Europe now forms an economic entity inspired by increasingly close political unity, if it forms one vast free market in 1992, if the Europeans are able to circulate and settle anywhere in this Europe which was once so divided and torn, it is thanks to Franco-German reconciliation, and it is thanks to the embrace between General de Gaulle and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

Europe began like that and it will be remembered that the Greater Maghreb too began with the embrace near Oujda between President Chadli Bendjedid and His Majesty King Hassan II.

Sudan

SPLA Official Spokesman Denies Reported Losses

EA2605211188 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The official spokesman of the SPLA military high command today emphatically denied Khartoum's statement that their Army had killed 300 [figure as heard] SPLA soldiers for the loss of 3 of their own somewhere along the borders of southern Kordofan and Upper Nile.

The spokesman referred to the claim as absurd in logic and even more absurd in practice for the SPLA to sustain casualties of 300 to 3 with the Khartoum's Army anywhere, anytime. Khartoum knows, and well knows, that Khartoum's Army has had the worst of it over the last 5 years.

However, the spokesman said that it was common practice of Khartoum's Army and militia to massacre innocent civilians and for some cowardly officers to claim this as a victory for which Khartoum normally awards such officers medals.

The spokesman concluded that this is what happened and that Khartoum's three soldiers were killed in this fight with the civilians, not with the SPLA. The spokesman further revealed that reports of massacres of Nuba people of southern Kordofan and northern Bentiu were filtering in and that details will be provided when concrete information is obtained.

Tunisia

Restructuring of Interior Ministry Announced

LD2205112588 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 0900 GMT 22 May 88

[Text] His Excellency President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali held a working session this morning in the Palace of the Republic in Carthage with Interior Minister Habib

Ammar, dealing with the restructuring of the ministry's services, especially those pertaining to security aspects, following the meeting chaired by the head of state last Friday for this purpose.

The interior minister announced that it has been decided to set up four general directorates working alongside the secretary of state for security, Chadli Neffati:

The General Directorate for Joint Services, headed by Mokhtar Jouini; the General Directorate for Public Security, headed by Othman Naghmouchi; the General Directorate for Special Services, headed by Chedli Hammi; and the General Directorate for Intervention Units, headed by Abdelfattah Jarraya.

In addition, Habib Ammar said that it has been decided that the General Directorate for Regional Affairs, the General Directorate of Local Public Communities, the General Directorate of the National Guard, the General Directorate of the Penitentiary and Reform Services, and the Directorate of Civil Protection will be put under the authority of Secretary of State for Interior Amor Bejaoui.

The interior minister further said that the president has recommended that the Directorate of Civil Protection be turned into an office.

Western Sahara

Abdelaziz Cited on Algerian-Moroccan Ties

LD2205033188 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1800 GMT 21 May 88

[Text] Reason and wisdom are the hope of the Saharan people. This was stated by the secretary general of the Polisario Front and president of the Saharan Republic in the speech he made yesterday on the occasion of the 15th anniversary of the Saharan armed struggle.

In this context, we must reaffirm the desire of the Polisario Front and the Saharan Government to reach an end, on a just basis, as defined by international organizations, Mr Abdelaziz added.

The SDAR president expressed the hope that the reestablishment of diplomatic relations between Algiers and Rabat would encourage efforts for a settlement of the conflict between his country and the Kingdom of Morocco.

Mr Sadek Zouaten represented Algeria at these festivities, which took place in the Saharan Republic. The official in charge of the Council of Solidarity and Friendship [Sadek Zouaten] repeated Algeria's support for the Saharan Republic and also mentioned the tireless efforts undertaken by our country for stability and peace in the region.

President Abdelaziz Discusses Maghreb, OAU

AB1805184088 Dakar PANA in French 1450 GMT 18 May 88

[PANA interview with President Mohamed Abdelaziz in Bir Lahlou; date not given]

[Excerpt] Bir Lahlou, 18 May (PANA)—[Passage omitted] PANA: Certain African circles, in 1982 and 1983 in particular, were surprised that a republic which first proclaimed itself "Arab" has never applied to join the Arab League. And this is true, unless we are mistaken. What do you have to say in this connection, Mr President?

Abdelaziz: Since the launching of the national liberation struggle, the Popular Front has applied for admission into the United Nations, as well as the OAU and the Arab League, to support the legitimate struggle of the Saharan people for the decolonization of their country.

While the United Nations and the OAU answered this call, the Arab League expressed great reservations. This attitude, which was especially strengthened following the invasion of the SDAR by Morocco, did not encourage us to go and knock again at the door of this organization.

Also, as you are aware, Mauritania—which achieved its independence in 1960 and has since been admitted into the United Nations and the OAU—did not join the Arab League until 1969 because of the Moroccan veto.

Unfortunately, the charter of this organization provides for the use of this procedure by any member state.

In any case, the attitude of the pan-Arab organization has not, however, prevented the SDAR from being recognized by several Arab states and from enjoying the sympathy of so many others.

Having said this, the Saharan Government has no objection to the Arab League discussing the conflict between the SDAR and the Kingdom of Morocco, on the condition that the Arab League first recognizes the SDAR just as it recognizes the Kingdom of Morocco.

PANA: In the past, there had been secret meetings between Saharan and Moroccan emissaries. Efforts are still being made on the multilateral level to achieve implementation of the OAU and UN resolutions for a peaceful settlement of the conflict.

In your opinion, how significant is the role of the OAU in these efforts? Has the Moroccan withdrawal [from the OAU] not made the pan-African organization's task more difficult?

As the OAU secretary general said, it was a withdrawal that deprived the organization of any "means of pressure" on the Rabat government.

Abdelaziz: I must point out that it was actually thanks to the OAU, and to efforts made by African leaders, that the basis for solving the Western Sahara problem was finally outlined in Resolution AHG 104, which was worked out by the 19th OAU summit in 1983.

But, how long will the Kingdom of Morocco isolate itself, in as much as such an attitude will not change the facts? Can we not find here a means of putting pressure on the Rabat government, which will be forced finally to choose between isolation and the return to reason?

Finally, it must be pointed out that despite the absence of Morocco from the OAU, the African stand on the Western Sahara issue has been taken up and supported by the entire world.

A proof of this assertion is, in particular, the current effort of good auspices being undertaken by the current chairman and the UN secretary general, aimed at the implementation of the Western Sahara peace plan, justly based on the OAU resolution. This explains the importance of the role of the pan-African organization, which, in our view, is efficient and indispensable.

PANA: Mr President, how do you perceive the future of a sovereign Saharan state actually controlling its territory and serving as the trustee of its people's sovereignty?

Abdelaziz: After liberation is completed, the SDAR will devote itself to national construction and the development of good relations with countries throughout the world, first and foremost with its neighbors, including the Kingdom of Morocco.

The future of the Saharan state cannot be clouded by pessimism. On the one hand, the abundant wealth of the territory guarantees to the Saharan people the means of achieving progress and prosperity.

On the other hand, the foundation of the Saharan state of tomorrow has already been laid in the very midst of the liberation war. It is built on justice, democracy, and equality, such as they were drawn from the Saharan's ancestral history, and have been examined and defined in the Constitution.

In addition, the sociopolitical experiment being undertaken now by the SDAR is a projection of the Saharan state into the future: a state that aspires to economic self-sufficiency and political independence and which has the means of attaining this double objective.

Along this same line of thinking, the SDAR intends to contribute more toward the effort of Third World countries for the establishment of a new, more just, international order.

PANA: Outside of this vision of the Sahara—which is presently annexed by Morocco—is it impossible to conceive of the construction of the Maghreb? In other words, Mr President, is an economically and possibly politically integrated Maghreb out of the question without a prior solution of the Saharan conflict?

Abdelaziz: The building of the Maghreb is a fundamental aspiration of the Saharan people and all the peoples of the region. The achievement of this objective has always been hindered by the expansionist policy of the Moroccan leadership, which is infected with the idea of "the Empire of the Greater Morocco."

Remember the Moroccan claims on Mauritania for nearly 10 years, the war against Algeria in 1963, and the aggression against the Saharan people in 1975, which has continued until today against the SDAR?

As a result, we, for our part, are convinced that as long as the Kingdom of Morocco does not depart from this attitude which constitutes the backbone of its regional policy, the Maghreb will remain a distant hope.

However, if as a result of Morocco's attitude, the building of a Maghreb comprising all its components—hence a six-member Maghreb—appears difficult to achieve for the moment, nothing must prevent those Maghrebian countries that have no problems among themselves, that is, Algeria, Mauritania, Tunisia, and Libya, from beginning a four-member Maghreb.

When the time comes that Morocco and the SDAR have succeeded in resolving their conflict, they can then join the bandwagon.

PANA: According to a tradition prevailing at the OAU, conflicts between states must, to the extent possible, be first of all "handled" at the subregional level.

The most recent example is the "war" between Mali and Burkina Faso in 1985. Now, how can we explain this inability observed in northern Africa and which has been so obvious that the OAU was forced to remain helpless in the face of the departure of a founding member, after being threatened with near destruction itself?

Abdelaziz: The conflict between the SDAR and the Kingdom of Morocco was originally a problem of incomplete decolonization, which means that its solution was first to be found at the international level; namely, at the level of the OAU and United Nations, the two organizations most concerned with this matter.

At that level in particular, after long years of debate, a peace plan was drafted (Resolution AHG 104 of the OAU and Resolution 42/78 of the UN, just to mention the latest). With the exception of Morocco, all the countries in the region, including the SDAR, are unreservedly in favor of its implementation.

Furthermore, most of the countries in the subregion have recognized the SDAR and have rejected Morocco's attitude. Many efforts were also made in the subregion, but in vain. Among these efforts, let us mention the meetings held between the SDAR and Morocco or those held between Algeria and Morocco.

PANA: At the African level, the SDAR is not a shadow that has taken the place of a reality, Morocco. Given the conditions of its present physical existence, how does the SDAR feel among other states within the OAU, which is celebrating its 25th anniversary?

Abdelaziz: The SDAR has not taken anybody's place. It has simply taken up its rightful place within the organization which represents the continent to which it belongs.

Also, the SDAR is a perfectly tangible reality, which is demonstrated in a two-fold way: First of all, in terms of its liberation struggle where it has demonstrated its existence and its vitality, and secondly, in terms of its original experience, which determines its social, economic, and political life in the liberated territories, as well as in the refugee camps.

It is a national reality and also an international one, but first of all, it is an African reality.

In this regard, the SDAR has continued to strengthen its relations of solidarity and cooperation with the African states. The Saharan Government attaches particular interest to the OAU efforts for the realization of the sacred objectives of the liberation and unity of the continent.

The happy occasion of the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the OAU, which we warmly salute on behalf of the Saharan people and their government, gives me the opportunity to reiterate, once more, our desire to develop further the SDAR's participation, within the OAU, in the various efforts of our dear continent, for its progress and its prosperity.

Intra-Gulf Affairs

Reportage on Iranian Gunboat Attacks on Tankers

Liberian-Flagged Tanker Hit

NC2605173388 Paris AFP in English 1728 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpt] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, May 26 (AFP)—Iranian gunboats on Thursday attacked a Liberian-flagged methane carrier in the Strait of Hormuz in the Gulf, regional shipping sources said.

In London, the maritime insurers Lloyd's confirmed the attack and said fire had been set to the 12,251-ton "Mundo Gas Rio," which it said was managed by the Oslo-based Norwegian Ship Management Company.

Regional shipping sources said the Greek ship's captain immediately radioed a distress message and that tugboats were on their way to the stricken vessel.

The sources said it was not immediately clear if there were any casualties in the attack. The vessel's crew is made up of Filipino seamen and Greek officers.

The reported Iranian attack was the first since Iranian gunboats opened fire May 19 against the Norwegian methane carrier Berger Strand, wounding one crew member. [passage omitted]

Maltese Freighter Fired Upon

NC2705080288 Paris AFP in English 0754 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Dubai, May 27 (AFP)—Iranian gunboats opened fire early Friday on a small Maltese freighter in the Strait of Hormuz in the southern Gulf, shipping sources reported here.

There were no immediate reports of casualties aboard the Don Miguel, which was hit as it was leaving the Gulf.

It was the second reported Iranian raid in the area in 24 hours, as gunboats on Thursday set ablaze the 12,251-ton Liberian-flagged Mundo Gas Rio, causing no casualties among the Filipino crew members and Greek officers aboard.

Iran traditionally attacks vessels trading with Arab ports in the Gulf in retaliation for Iraqi air strikes on Iranian-owned or chartered tankers.

Iran and Iraq have been at war since September 1980.

Fire Breaks Out on 2 Ships

JN2705081988 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 0800 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] According to shipping sources in the Gulf, Iranian speedboats attacked the oil tanker "Don Miguel," which flies the Maltese flag, as well as a tugboat in the Strait of Hormuz this morning.

As a result of the attack, fires broke out aboard the two vessels. Apparently the crew of the oil tanker "Don Miguel" were compelled to abandon ship.

Kuwait

Defense Minister on Gulf War, Arms Purchases

LD2505175688 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 1316 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Kuwait 25 May (KUNA)—Kuwaiti Defense Minister Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad al-Jabir al-Sabah, has expressed the hope that the Iraq-Iran war will end very soon to spare more bloodshed and loss of innocent lives.

He added that the aggression and provocations waged against Kuwait to drag it into this war have failed to make Kuwait retreat from its principles or make it a party to this war.

He stated that such a war has harmed the two belligerent countries and drained their economic and human resources. He then praised Iraq for being relentless and steadfast in recovering Al-Faw from the Iranians.

The defense minister added, in a interview with the weekly AL-MAJALIS that plans have been drawn up and adopted that can be used immediately, if the situation warrants, to protect Kuwait, its soil, territorial waters, shores and airspace; such plans would, moreover, determine the responsibilities of the various forces of the Army. The final stage to further develop such plans is soon to be finalized.

In reply to a question on what has repeatedly been reported on negotiations being held between Kuwait and European countries to buy gunboats and minesweepers to consolidate the Kuwaiti Navy, the minister asserted that Kuwait has received offers from some friendly countries to buy various kinds of minesweepers following the mines incidents and the planting of these mines in the waters of the Arabian Gulf, as well as the existence of some of these mines in the international shipping lanes leading to Al-Ahmad terminal in the south of the country.

Kuwait is still receiving such offers. Military commissions comprising competent Kuwaiti officers have been formed to study these offers and buy what would suit Kuwait and its territorial waters, he asserted.

In reply to a question on protecting ships in the Gulf, the minister told the weekly, in his interview that is to be published next week: "We have repeatedly asserted that the responsibility for protecting ships and tankers flying the Kuwaiti flag rests with the State of Kuwait; however, the responsibility of protecting those that fly the U.S. flag should, however, be shouldered by the United States itself...and therefore, we have not asked the United States to assume the protection of our ships and tankers."

On the preparations made by the Kuwaiti Defense Ministry against any external aggression, Shaykh Nawaf said:

"Undoubtedly, since the eruption of the Iran-Iraq war, the State of Kuwait, as represented by the Defense Ministry, has made the necessary preparations and the appropriate measures for the defense of Kuwait, its territorial waters, and its international airspace. Consequently, these measures are basically present, but the state of preparedness increases or decreases according to the need and to the information about aggressive intentions."

The defense minister said that his ministry has taken sufficient measures to contain [as received] the Silkworm missiles that Iran directed toward Kuwaiti installations, ships, and tankers. He said these measures have proved their efficiency.

On Kuwait's policy of diversifying the source of weapons, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said Kuwait was among the first of the Arab countries to deliberately set about diversifying the source of its arms by purchasing weapons from the East and West.

This experiment proved its wisdom. He said there are no obstacles on the part of the states producing weapons "in that they are offering us what they have and we are able to choose what suits us in regard to the type, technology, assimilation, and viability of this or that weapon."

The minister added that Kuwait has the right to purchase any type of weapon, just as the manufacturing state has the right to accept or reject. This depends on the system of selling weapons in that state and the accepting or rejecting quarters.

He said Kuwait, in turn, can search for other sources in the event of rejection. "With regard to the U.S. refusal to supply Kuwait with Stinger missiles, we have been able to compensate for this with another type that has a high fighting efficiency."

Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said Kuwait is studying the possibility of benefiting from Egyptian weaponry of various types and that specialized technical committees are carrying out studies on the modification that has been made to the French Mirage aircraft. Senior officials will make the appropriate decision, based on the results of the study.

The minister said that a Gulf military manufacturing establishment project has been discussed. Such a project would comprise the GCC member states. The specialized military committees considers it better to delay this subject in order to carry out further study.

Such study will focus on the availability of the necessary military technology and technical and human efficiency, taking into consideration that the concept is one to which we aspire and we hope it will materialize.

In reply to a question on the joint Gulf defense agreement as a substitute for the joint Arab defense agreement, the minister said:

We are a part of the Arab and Islamic nation and cannot deviate from this principle. Therefore, the joint Arab defense agreement still stands and remains the basis. However, some Arab differences may hinder it in some issues. We are hoping these will vanish and Arab countries will enjoy harmony, fraternity, and amity instead of disunity, rift, and division. Therefore, the joint Gulf defense agreement is no more than a branch of the original and will fulfill its role fully according to plans at a suitable time and place.

On Zionist threats to Saudi Arabia due to the latter getting Chinese missiles, Shaykh Nawwaf al-Ahmad said it is the right of any state to purchase the weapons it desires to defend its sovereignty and independence and, therefore, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia has every right to purchase the military weapons that suit it from any quarter it wishes to develop the means to defend its territories and sovereignty.

He added that in the event of Saudi Arabia becoming exposed to an aggression, it has the right to respond in a suitable way. He stressed that the GCC countries would place all their military and manpower capabilities in the service of the brothers of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia at any time and place it wishes.

Qatar

Heir Apparent Meets U.S. Envoy Vernon Walters

JN2605112388 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0925 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Doha, 26 May (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Hamad ibn Khalifah Al Thani, deputy amir of Qatar and heir apparent, met here today with Vernon Walters, the U.S. President's envoy and permanent U.S. representative at the United Nations, who is currently visiting Doha as part of a regional tour.

During the meeting, which was attended by a number of senior Qatari officials, they discussed the most important current issues in the Gulf region and the Middle East, as well as bilateral relations.

Minister Meets With Walters

JN2605115888 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1140 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Doha, 26 May (WAKH)—Shaykh Ahmad ibn Sayf Al Thani, Qatari minister of state for foreign affairs, this morning met with Vernon Walters, the U.S. President's envoy and U.S. representative at the United Nations, who is currently visiting Doha. During the meeting, they reviewed the latest developments in the Gulf region and issues of mutual interest.

Saudi Arabia

King Fahd Receives Algerian President Bendjedid

LD2605225188 Riyadh Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud, custodian of the two holy mosques, and Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid held a meeting this evening at the Royal Court in Al-Salam Palace.

The meeting was attended on the Saudi side by His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs; Muhammad Ibrahim Mas'ud, minister of state and member of the Council of Ministers; Minister of Information 'Ali al-Sha'ir; and 'Ali ibn Musallam, counselor at the Royal Court.

The meeting was attended on the Algerian side by Foreign Minister Dr Ahmed Taleb Ibrahimi; director of the presidency, Larbi Belkheir; and Algerian Ambassador to Saudi Arabia Abdelkarim Ghraieb.

'Security Measures' Taken for Hajj Season

PM2605085388 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 25 May 88 p 1

[Rifqi al-Tayyib report: "Prince Nayif to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT: No Slackness in Saudi Security in Hajj Season"]

[Text] Cairo, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT — Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayif ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz has denied that slackness in Saudi security could have prompted Tehran's rulers to commit their crime during last year's hajj.

The proof of this is that when the Iranians tried to undermine security in God's peaceful sanctuary the Saudi security forces confronted and stopped them.

In a statement to AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT, Prince Nayif emphasized that security in the Saudi Arabian Kingdom is firmly established, praise be to God. He said: This is not mere talk; it is a reality that has always been maintained in every hajj season, including last year's.

He pointed out that last year's Iranian crime taught us a lesson; namely, not to put complete trust in the promises that Tehran's rulers make or to assume they will respect Islamic sanctities. And in no way will they be allowed to repeat their abominable acts. A number of security measures have been taken to prevent any attitudes that would disturb security.

He urged the Arab nation to be united in the face of the threats posed by the Iranian and Israeli regimes. He also said that the intentions of both Tehran and Tel Aviv against the Arab and Islamic worlds, as well as their cooperation, pose a threat to the entire Arab nation; thus there should be preparedness to deter their aggression; namely, by putting a limit on the behavior of the ruling group in Iran, by strongly and firmly confronting Israel, and by backing the Palestinian people in their demand for their legitimate rights.

Prince Nayif said his 4-day visit to Egypt achieved positive results and proved that both countries have identical views over the security situation in the region. He hoped cooperation would increase in the interest of both countries.

Prince Nayif yesterday left Cairo for the Kingdom; he was seen off at the airport by a number of Egyptian officials and the Kingdom's ambassador in Cairo.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Oil Minister on Reduced Production

JN2705123288 Dubayy AL-BAYAN in Arabic 25 May 88 pp 1, 14

[Text] Dubayy—Iranian Petroleum Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh has asserted that Iran has lost an estimated 50,000 barrels of oil a day as a result of the U.S. Navy's destruction of four jetties in the Gulf.

Speaking at a press conference at the Iranian Consulate in Dubayy yesterday, Aqazadeh said Iran has made up for the loss by increasing production in other fields. The Iranian minister said Iran adheres to the quota allocated to it by OPEC.

Aqazadeh expressed hope the contacts and endeavors now being made by oil producing countries will lead to a rapprochement in views that will bring about agreement at the forthcoming OPEC meeting scheduled to be held in Vienna on 8 June.

He said that ever since 1986 there has been rapprochement between OPEC member states and non-OPEC oil producing countries and bilateral and collective meetings between them have been held since then.

At the latest meeting the non-OPEC countries offered to reduce their production by 5 percent in return for OPEC's reduction of their production by the same proportion.

Aqazadeh said at first agreement was reached on the proposal and the percentage of reduction in production was determined. Regrettably, however, political factors prevented a vote on the resolution.

Aqazadeh is on a tour to urge oil producing countries within and outside OPEC to reduce oil production. Aqazadeh visited Oman before the UAE and will be visiting Indonesia prior to the Vienna meeting.

Aqazadeh acknowledged that the Iranian oil industry is facing difficulties, but he said such difficulties are being overcome and there are plans to build pipelines that reach ports outside the Gulf.

He said talks are being held with the Soviet Union to revive the use of a disused natural gas pipeline to the Black Sea. He said the pipeline will be altered to transport oil.

Aqazadeh said the reduction in oil production is of great importance. He expressed hope the UAE will support such a step at the OPEC meeting in June.

Aqazadeh predicted greater economic cooperation between France and Iran following the improvement of relations between the two countries.

Saddam Husayn Chairs General Command Meeting

JN2605151588 Baghdad INA in English 1455 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 26, INA—President Saddam Husayn presided over a meeting of the General Command of the Armed Forces.

The meeting tackled the military situation in the sector of the gallant 3rd Army Corps and victories attained in the operations of "On God We Depended" and liberation of the sacred Iraqi soil from filth of the Khomeyniite invaders.

The meeting was attended by General 'Adnan Khayrallah, deputy commander-in-chief of the Armed Forces and defence minister, Mr. Latif Nussayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, General 'Abd al-Jabbar Shanshal, state minister for military affairs, Brigadier Husayn Kamil, director of military industry body and acting minister of industry and minerals and the president's secretary.

Saddam Husayn Sees YAR Deputy Prime Minister

JN2605134888 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Iraqi President Saddam Husayn received Brother Dr Hasan Makki, deputy prime minister and Standing Committee member, in Baghdad this morning. Dr Makki is currently visiting Baghdad at the head of a delegation to participate in the world conference for peace, which is currently being held in Baghdad. The meeting was attended by Brother Ahmad al-Rawdi, YAR ambassador to Iraq.

Ramadan Receives GDR Official; Trade Discussed

JN2605193588 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1800 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, has received Claus Gaedt, GDR deputy minister for foreign trade. During the meeting, which was attended by the under secretary of the Trade Ministry, they discussed bilateral relations and affirmed the common desire to expand and develop these relations in the economic and trade fields.

'Aziz Addresses Conference on UN Resolution

JN2605151288 Baghdad INA in English 1435 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Baghdad, May 26, INA—Iraq has stressed necessity that the Security Council should obtain a clear, official and unconditional Iranian acceptance of Resolution No. 598.

Addressing today the international popular conference for peace, now in session here, Mr. Tariq 'Aziz, deputy premier and foreign minister said that Iraq was and still requests such acceptance as the U.N. Secretariat General and Security Council do not possess an official document referring to Iran's compliance with the mandatory resolution.

Mr. 'Aziz added that Iran's official acceptance of Resolution 598 means its acceptance of the Security Council mandate of the conflict, a matter Iran had not recognized over years of the conflict.

The Iraqi foreign minister said that Iraq chose peace and supervision of the Security Council of the conflict and also accepted all its resolutions the last of which was Resolution 598, while Iran chose the path of war, aggression and expansion and turned down the council mandate on the conflict.

Mr. 'Aziz added that since adoption of the resolution ten months ago...the situation is still as it is with war going on coupled with threat of security and stability in the region and of world peace.

"At the same time, there is a disillusion that an action is underway for ending the war while in fact there is no serious action in this regard", Mr. 'Aziz said.

The Iraqi foreign minister pointed out that Iran, since issuing Resolution No. 598 on July 20. 1987 resorted to the path of manoeuvering, manipulation and playing on it instead of announcing its direct clear rejection of the resolution.

Mr. 'Aziz said Iran knew that its blatant rejection of the resolution would certainly lead to pushing the Security Council to adopt its second stage namely sanctioning the non-complying party and imposing an arms embargo on it.

Mr. 'Aziz said "It is regrettable that misinterpretation of the Iranian stand is propagated to avoid implementing the second stage of the resolution... Those propagating the Iranian stand are the countries that have political and commercial interests and do not want to effectively take part in issuing sanctions against Iran".

Mr. 'Aziz stressed that Resolution 598 serves a logical and practical settlement to the conflict pointing out that this conflict could be settled only according to the sequence of the resolution articles for consolidating security and stability between the two sides and in the region.

Mr. 'Aziz urged Security Council member states to define their political options accurately as the issue is a political one.

Concluding, Mr. 'Aziz called upon peaceloving dignitaries, societies, organizations and parties to loudly press on Security Council member states particularly permanent ones to maintain the mandatory obligation of Resolution 598.

Reportage on Gulf War Combat Activities

Communique No 3,194

JN2605165488 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1611 GMT 26 May 88

[Communique No 3,194 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 26 May]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. The following is a roundup of our units' activities for last night and today:

1. At 1124 [0724 GMT] today, our bold aircraft launched a successful raid on the oil installations in the Emam Hasan oil field. They managed to deal an accurate and effective blow to their targets. They then returned safely to base, God be praised.

2. Our capable helicopter gunships today flew 47 combat missions. They inflicted further losses on the scoundrel Khomeyniites and then returned safely to base, God be praised.

3. At 1425 yesterday, two enemy F-5's attempted to penetrate our international border in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. They were confronted by various weapons from our air defenses in the sector. One of them was destroyed and fell inside enemy territory. The other plane fled.

4. Two valiant forces from one of our formations in the I Army Corps northern sector carried out two successful raids on opposing enemy positions. They destroyed 10 enemy positions and killed 7 of the scoundrels. The two forces then returned safely to their bases.

Elsewhere in the same sector, three enemy personnel were killed, one infantry position was destroyed, and three ammunition dumps were blown up.

5. Three scoundrels were killed in the I Special Army Corps sector, the Allahu Akbar Forces. Four others were killed and 10 infantry positions and 10 weapons emplacements were destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

6. Two 120-mm mortars and one infantry position were destroyed and one enemy vehicle was damaged in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah. In the VI Army Corps sector east of Maysan, four enemy personnel were killed, one machinegun and two infantry positions were destroyed, and one ammunition dump was blown up.

7. Two of the scoundrels were killed and three vehicles were set ablaze and destroyed in the VI Army Corps sector east of the Tigris. One enemy personnel was killed and one heavy machinegun was destroyed in the VII Army Corps sector.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 26 May

Journalists Tour Al-Shalamjah

JN2605160188 Baghdad INA in English 1542 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Basra, May 26, INA—Correspondents of foreign and Arab newspapers, news agencies, TV, and radio stations today visited the liberated areas in Al-Shalamjah sector.

During their tour of the liberated areas and meetings with the combatants of the Presidential Guards and the 3rd Army Corps, the correspondents got acquainted with volume of defeat sustained by the Iranian enemy troops in the operation of "On God we depended."

The correspondents also witnessed Iranian weapons and military supplies and equipment seized by Iraqi forces during their offensive and advance towards enemy positions in the liberated areas.

They also listened to an explanation of the battles waged by the Iraqi forces yesterday which led to the complete destruction of five Iranian divisions and purging Iraqi land from their disgrace.

Separatist Kurdish Groups Join Forces in North

NC2705074688 Istanbul HURRIYET in Turkish 24 May 88 p 15

[Murat Bardakci Report: "Six Kurdish Groups Unite"]

[Text] Cairo, (HURRIYET)—Celal Talabani, the leader of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, has said that six of the separatist organizations which operate in northern Iraq have joined their forces, including the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, which is headed by Mas'ud Barzani.

Talabani made this disclosure after his 3-hour meeting with President Hafiz al-Asad in Damascus last week. He said that the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, the Democratic Party of Kurdistan, the Socialist Party of Kurdistan, the Socialist Party for Kurdistan, the Communist Party of Iraq, and the National Democratic Party of Kurdistan [all names as published] will be affiliated to a "main center." Talabani asserted: "Our peshmerga will be more successful against the Ba'thist administration."

Noting that the Baghdad regime's operations in northern Iraq had been successful in the past because of the absence of a dialogue between the Kurdish groups in the region, Talabani claimed that the balance of force will now shift in their favor in the future.

He added that the Kurdish groups will cooperate closely with the Revolution Guards Iran has sent to the region to support the peshmerga.

Talabani also disclosed that PLO Executive Chairman Yasir 'Arafat had tried to restore friendly relations between the Kurdish groups during the past few months, adding that his endeavor was unsuccessful.

Unrest, Related Incidents in Territories

27 Detained in Stabbing

TA2605135288 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpt] The youth who was stabbed today in the Muslim quarter of Jerusalem is Hanokh Albeck, 17. Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the police have so far rounded up 27 suspects.

Police sources believe there was only a single assailant and that the stabbing was not preceded by any struggle. Hanokh Albeck's condition is moderate and stable. Our correspondent notes that Albeck, the son of Mrs Pli'a Albeck, is the grandson of Dr Nebenzahl, the former state comptroller. [passage omitted]

IDF Raids Villages 26 May

TA2705124988 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 May 88 p A2

[Report by Ori Nir and Eytan Rabin]

[Excerpts] Yesterday the IDF raided several villages in the Samaria district and in the vicinity of Bethlehem, making a series of arrests. Stones were thrown at Israeli cars at various locations, mainly around Hebron and in a few villages near Nabulus.

At the entrance to the village of Bayt Sahur, income tax authorities and the IDF erected a roadblock aimed at apprehending tax evaders on the basis of detailed lists.

The Civilian Administration has said that similar roadblocks have been set up at various locations over the past 2 weeks in order to improve tax collection and to deter evaders. [passage omitted]

Several minor disturbances occurred in the Gaza Strip yesterday. A stone was thrown at a car on Gaza's main street, causing no injuries. Arab sources have reported that 50 residents were hurt over the last 2 days by tear gas fired by IDF soldiers and by beatings. The IDF spokesman for the Gaza Strip has said that there are no statistics on tear gas victims. [passage omitted]

2 Die From Wounds 27 May

TA2705104788 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] A Tulkarm resident died today in Al-Maqasid Hospital of wounds sustained 3 months ago when IDF soldiers fired at demonstrators in an effort to disperse them.

A 14-year-old youth from the Al-Jalazun refugee camp died in Hadas Hospital of wounds sustained from IDF fire 2 days ago.

Arab Sentenced for Stabbing

TA2605172388 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The Nabulus military court sentenced a local resident to 15 years imprisonment and a 10-year suspended sentence for stabbing an IDF soldier. Khalil al-Qa'qa was convicted of stabbing a soldier in the center of Nabulus some 6 months ago after following IDF patrols in the city for a long time. The soldier was slightly wounded.

2 Druze Detained for Arson

TA2705044688 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0400 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] The police have arrested two residents of the Druze village of Majdal Shams in the Golan for setting fire to woods in the Baniyas Nature Reserve. The two were caught in the act and confessed to the arson, as well as to similar acts in the past. The fire destroyed 150 dunums of natural woodland.

Jerusalem Residents Want Arabs 'Treated Roughly'

TA2505144888 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1130 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] In a poll conducted last month, some 61 percent of Jerusalem residents believe that East Jerusalem Arabs should be treated roughly.

Some 51 percent said yes when asked whether Minister Sharon's residing in the Muslim quarter raises the level of tension between Jews and Arabs. The poll, conducted by Hanokh Smith, included some 500 individuals. This was reported by our correspondent Mikha'el Birenhack.

Leaflet Versions Reflect Conflicts Within Fatah

TA2605130288 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 26 May 88 p 6

[Article by Pinhas 'Inbari: "Three Voices to the Uprising"]

[Text] Schools in the West Bank were reopened only 4 days ago and the first test has already come. According to this test it will be easier to assess where the Palestinian uprising is heading: whether it is heading toward a relaxed institutionalization aimed at gaining understandings with Israel, with possible agreements later, or in a revolutionary direction aimed at exacerbating the uprising and entering a war-like struggle with Israel.

We can learn about the struggle from the resumption of studies and from three similar leaflets distributed in the West Bank in a single week. The first, Leaflet No 17 of the Unified National Command of the Uprising, called for a 1-day general strike in the territories yesterday, on the 40th day after the murder of Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir].

Only 3 days elapsed before another version of this same Leaflet No 17 appeared, containing a call for a 10-day strike. Simultaneously, another leaflet, not numbered this time, was published with a different title: "Civilian Uprising."

What can be learned from these leaflets, first of all, is that the unified command exists as a mere title, while each group in the PLO continues to pull the uprising [preceding word in Arabic] in its own direction.

It is highly reasonable to assume that standing behind the original, moderate leaflet which called for only a 1-day strike is a pragmatic group in Fatah supported by Palestinian communists and followers of Nayif Hawatimah's DFLP.

Behind the second, radical leaflet is another group in Fatah which is not happy with the idea of a relaxed institutionalization of the uprising.

Behind the third leaflet are supporters of George Habash's PFLP who are indignant about the fact that Fatah erased the term "civilian uprising" from the leaflets' vocabulary. This, as may be recalled, was the first political expression of the uprising.

The internal argument within the Palestinian organizations probably erupted due to the reopening of schools. This argument is not new. It has had different forms in the past, but is being sharply expressed now and revolves around a concrete question on the agenda.

The pragmatic group in the PLO which consists of those defined as 'Arafat supporters, claimed that the top priority goal at this stage is the "sumud" [Arabic for steadfastness]: standing firm in the face of the Israeli occupier's pressures.

This group has advocated that a revolutionary approach expressed in armed struggle in the territories will weaken the Palestinians' hold on the "occupied land" and will give Israel the excuse to carry out a transfer.

The true Palestinian interests, according to this group, are to aim at normalization under the occupation: to improve economic conditions, to raise the level of education of the younger generation, and to forcibly establish a Palestinian existence in the territories, one that would take still deeper root there.

The proponents of this approach also urged the PLO to enter the picture of the political process. They have all along worked to strengthen ties between Jordan and the PLO, in order to be aided by Jordan in consolidating the Palestinian foundations in the territories, as well as in order to find a political solution to the Palestinian problem together with countries having a pragmatic approach to Middle East conflicts.

It is unnecessary to elaborate on the approach of the radicals who believe that a continuous struggle against Israel will weaken it and yield better results for Palestinian nationalism.

When talking of two approaches to this question within Fatah, we should remember that while people defined as 'Arafat's supporters belong on one side, followers of the late Abu Jihad [Khalil al-Wazir] stand on the other and they are afraid that they are next in line for liquidation.

So, the recent uprising leaflets, especially Leaflet No 17, not only erased the term "civilian uprising," but their general approach is one of maintaining the achievements of the uprising and of using them to begin to reach tacit understandings with Israel by signaling that some in the PLO are prepared to meet it halfway in curbing an escalation of the situation in the territories.

The first test for these understandings is the resumption of studies, which was not unduly challenged by the original uprising Leaflet No 17. In contrast, the second version, probably written under the inspiration of Abu Jihad supporters, calls for a 10-day strike to shake up the school system, and the third leaflet expresses indignation at the neglect of the "civilian uprising" to begin with.

Deputy Agriculture Minister on West Bank Economy

TA2605132688 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 26 May 88 p 3

[Report by agricultural correspondent David Mosheyof]

[Excerpts] Deputy Agriculture Minister Avraham Katz-'Oz has reported that agricultural exports from the West Bank will total $3.5 million in 1988, compared with $1.5 million in 1987. [passage omitted]

The deputy minister also said that the West Bank's purchasing power dropped by 35 percent in the past 5 months because Arabs from the territories have stopped working in Israel.

He also said that some 30 percent of West Bank GNP comes from agriculture, which provides employment for some 60 percent of the local civilian workforce. According to Katz-'Oz, the Agriculture Ministry and other civilian elements should make sure that the civilian population's purchasing power remains unaffected to prevent peaceful citizens from becoming hostile.

The authorities should also make sure that agricultural exports from the territories to Jordan are not harmed. This is important for defense as well as economic reasons.

Shahal Proposal May Lead to Energy Deregulation

WA2705124888 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 11 May 88 p 9

[Article by Yaron Amitai]

[Text] Energy Minister Moshe Shahal Monday proposed a modified energy-reform package that has apparently overcome the objections of the oil companies and should pave the way to complete the sale of Paz Oil Co.

In a meeting Monday night with top executives of the three oil companies, Shahal offered to reverse his ministry's plan to allow the state-owned Oil Refineries Ltd. to market oil and petroleum products domestically. He also offered to lift the three-year-old freeze on marketing price margins.

In return, the oil companies would drop their demand for NIS [new Israeli shekels] 200 million compensation for losses accumulated while the freeze was in force. The losses reached $50 million last year, while profits were halved to $30 m.

After the meeting, executives of Paz, Delek Fuel Co. and Sonol Ltd., the three companies, expressed their readiness to agree in principle to the energy reform package, a spokesman for the Ministry of Energy said yesterday.

Only technical details still wait to be sorted out at a later meeting scheduled for tomorrow, the spokesman added.

This could prove a major breakthrough in the negotiations between the ministry and the oil companies, all three of which have strongly objected to the proposed reform since it was first proposed in 1985.

The High Court of Justice, currently reviewing an appeal by the oil companies against the reforms, is supposed to hold its first session on the subject June 6. The case may well be dropped if an agreement is now reached.

The agreement is likely to speed the sealing of the deal under which Australian Jack Liberman is supposed to buy the majority stake in Paz. Mr. Liberman, who is currently on a visit to Israel, said he would back out of the deal unless the freeze on oil prices was lifted. A clause in the sales contract allows him to legally do so until May 15.

Motion To Separate Municipal, Knesset Elections

TA2505131988 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1200 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] In a preliminary vote the Knesset approved a motion by Knesset Members [MK] Edri and Bar'am to separate the municipal and Knesset elections. The motion was supported by 59 Knesset members of the Alignment, the leftist factions, the National Religious Party, and MK Pinhas of SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim].

The motion was opposed by the Likud, Tehiya, and MK's Kahane and Ben-Shlomo. Our correspondent Amnon Nadav reports that Yitzhaq Moda'i of the Likud and Yitzhaq Peretz of SHAS were absent from the vote.

The motion was transferred to committee to prepare for second and third readings and the Knesset's final approval.

Commentary Views Policy of Targeting Hizballah

TA2605132188 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 26 May 88 p 1

[Commentary by Ze'ev Schiff—"The Goal: Liquidating the Hizballah Infrastructure"]

[Text] Yesterday's joint IDF and South Lebanese Army [SLA] operation north of the security border is a further stage in Israel's policy of liquidating the Hizballah military infrastructure near the security zone.

This policy will be pursued until the Hizballah's military infrastructure in the south, which threatens Israel's security and vital interests, is liquidated. This goal will be attained by various means: sometimes in a direct IDF operation by crossing the lines northward, at other times through assisting the SLA by providing heavy fire cover, as was the case yesterday.

Although Hizballah views Israel as its enemy and has more than once cooperated with Palestinian terrorists in attacks against Israel and joint attempts at infiltrating our territory, the above policy should not be seen as a comprehensive war against the Hizballah everywhere.

Even today Israel is abstaining from hitting Hizballah bases in Al-Biqa' and in other parts of Lebanon. So far, the IDF operations should be viewed as activity against specific targets in southern Lebanon and the vicinity of the security zone.

Israel is in fact treating the Hizballah to some warning slaps, after the latter was beaten by Amal in southern Lebanon several months ago. The message to the Hizballah is that the security border is no red line that Israel will fear crossing if it learns that a hostile military infrastructure is being established north of it.

This hostile military infrastructure is very similar to the one established by the Palestinian organizations in Fatahland in the 1970s, to which Israel failed to react in time.

Whether Israel is forced to expand its activity against the Hizballah to other more removed targets depends largely on the Hizballah.

Another conclusion deriving from this policy is that Israel is not interested in creating an unpopulated no-man's-land in southern Lebanon. While Amal takes care of the region's Shi'ites, therefore refraining from intensifying its clashes with Israel, the Hizballah follows a different policy.

The latter will happily chase away local villagers, including Shi'ites, to use their land for its military infrastructure. This is one of the controversies between the south Lebanese Hizballah and Amal: the extent of each organization's comprehensive responsibility toward the region and its population.

While in the past Israel made no special efforts to carry out accurate countershelling, it is now obvious it is abstaining from blindly hitting the residents of southern Lebanon if it is clear they have not directly assisted terrorist organizations or the Hizballah.

Prince Hasan Interviewed on Summit, Gulf, PLO

JN2505130088 Amman Television Service in English 1926 GMT 24 May 88

["Full" interview with Crown Prince Hasan ibn Talal by U.S. television network CNN correspondent Steve Schatz in Atlanta; date not given]

[Text] [Schatz] The importance of Jordan as a broker for peace in the Middle East is recognized by disparate countries and factions. Recently, Jordan's King Husayn has held meetings with Secretary of State George Shultz and PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on the situation in the Israeli-occupied territories and the Palestinians' desire for a homeland.

Crown Prince Hasan is the younger brother and heir of King Husayn. He is in the U.S. to lead a delegation of Jordanian businessmen interested in expanding trade between the two countries.

He joins us today to give a Jordanian perspective to the conflict in the Middle East. King Husayn will reportedly lead the Jordanian delegation to a special Arab summit next month.

He will be taking a new peace plan for the West Bank—apparently he is going to be taking a peace plan for the West Bank to that meeting. What is he going to say?

[Hasan] Well I think the question is: Will he be taking a peace plan to the Algiers summit? Effectively, our position is very clear. We have the following points of agreement with the United States: The international conference, [UN Resolutions] 242 and 338 are points of agreement.

The bilateral committees is a point of agreement, and indeed law enforcement and law coercion by that international conference. But it is where we disagree and where we hope to find a reaction after the visit to Moscow and the summit there—that will have a great bearing on the Arab summit meeting, which is important.

What are the natures of the international conference's powers? Where do we see self-determination? Secretary Shultz has spoken about the Palestinians determining their own future.

The participation of the PLO of course is still a moot point to that international conference, and the Arab summit will want to know something about that. The interpretation, of course, of timing and linkage of final status talks with the phased implementation of what is referred to as the transitional period. So there is very little that we can say, apart from bringing the Arab summit up to date.

[Schatz] With all that as a background, you are in Atlanta on a mission of trade. How difficult is it to sell ideas to businessmen in this country whose perception of the Middle East is one of turmoil, one of chaos, one of danger and instability? How frustrating is that for you?

[Hasan] I have been here before, in 1971. I was in New York. We had plummeted from an 8 percent growth rate to zero. And I came over here to say that what we are looking for is partnership and development.

And 15 years later we were credible, so credible in fact that we are being treated by the World Bank not as a Lesser Developed Country but as a developing country. And what we are looking for here is partnership and development again.

And my experience, both in Japan with the untied loan to Jordan of $300 million a few months ago, and indeed with American businessmen as we look at the development of our Dead Sea brine complex, is one of commitment to doing good things in bad times.

[Schatz] Good things in bad times. What do you then tell Westerners, those in the Orient, who may rightly or wrongly see Jordan as being part of an area that is too unstable for business, for investment? How do you convince them otherwise?

[Hasan] I tell them, let us look at the Asian rim of Europe, as we have looked at the Pacific rim. Let us look at the 200, the $540 billion—I am sorry—$540 billion laid out on that Gulf war to kill over 1 million people, $25 billion Arab loss on Black Monday alone, and consider what we could cede into stability that could provide a threshold for prosperity and peace.

It does not stand to reason. It is a Catch-22 that prosperity succeeds peace. We have to build that environment.

[Schatz] The Persian Gulf is in tatters. It is a tinderbox. The West Bank and the Gaza Strip—in the news once again today. They are thinking, perhaps they may be able to send the children back to school there.

What effect has all this had on relations among Arab states where relationships historically perhaps have not been too good?

[Hasan] Let us think positive. You did not mention Afghanistan. There are three pluses there: withdrawal of troops, self-determination, return of refugees. Maybe the Moscow summit could give those West Bankers a little bit of hope if it abided by the concept of an international conference.

As far as the Gulf is concerned, the recapture of the Al-Faw peninsula, and indeed the strong position taken by Kuwait on hijacking, means that we are on something, I think, of an upbeat note, relatively speaking.

But it is true, conflict will continue unless political commitment is applied by all sides. We all need to be squeezed a little.

[Schatz] The United States as an escort in the Persian Gulf. Good idea, bad idea?

[Hasan] I think good idea when it started in terms of reflagging of tankers, but in the longer term is it going to be a sharing of zones of influence between the United States and the Soviet Union, or does the region and the political will of the peoples of the region come to the fore?

[Schatz] What would happen if the Soviet Union made its presence felt?

[Hasan] The...

[Schatz, interrupting] Would the region tolerate that?

[Hasan] The region is out of NATO region and out of Warsaw Pact region. The Soviet Union has stood very much on the principles of the international conference and the nonacquisition of territory by war.

Secretary of State Shultz before he even came to Jordan said: No Palestine state, no PLO, and even no to 1967 borders. The Soviet Union has been scoring many points by standing on principle.

[Schatz] The perception, perhaps until 6, 8, 10 months ago, was that the PLO was losing steam and perhaps was all but out of business. Now, events of recent days would indicate otherwise.

How has your brother the king had to alter his position vis-a-vis peace plans for the area with the resurgence of the PLO?

[Hasan] Well, the resurgence, of course, is an emotional affair linked to what is happening in the occupied territories. But the uprising cannot last forever, and the uprising has a point: The suffering should lead to the withdrawal of troops. So the PLO can continue to hold the political high ground, the rhetorical high ground of talking about a Palestine state.

But reality says otherwise. Reality says that we have to move with an international conference, and that is why the Moscow meeting is so important.

[Schatz] I would imagine that you and I are just about the same age. And let us put that between 45 and 50.

[Hasan] I will accept that.

[Schatz] Now all right, I will, too.

[Hasan] [Laughs]

[Schatz] Are you and I going to see a satisfactory accommodation, if not peace, in our lifetime, presuming that we live our lives out to the predictions of the actuarial tables?

[Hasan] Well, lives are in the hands of the Almighty, but as far as my children are concerned, as I look at them, I ask myself the same question. And at least I go to bed with a clear conscience that Jordan has been consistent in that search for peace.

We look forward to the next decade. And I think: Yes, there is a possibility of containment of conflict at best. But of course we have to believe in miracles, and what would be better than best is stability and peace. We talk of trade and investment—maybe that is one way of trying to build bridges, particularly in this country during this transitional year.

[Schatz] Perhaps trade is stronger than all those other influences when we get down to basics and cases, perhaps?

[Hasan] Well, it is not a substitute to political solutions but it certainly improves the environment, particularly when you talk of extremism and fundamentalism built on the disparity between haves and have-nots.

[Schatz] Your Highness, thank you for joining us here in Atlanta today. We appreciate it.

[Hasan] Thank you very much indeed.

Government Comments on U.S. Reply on Palestine

JN2605133088 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1215 GMT 26 May 88

[Randa Habib report from Amman]

[Text] The Jordanian Government has received the U.S. answers to the written questions handed to U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz during his third tour of the region last April.

The Jordanian questions focused on the U.S. concept of the Palestinian people's rights, who they mean by the Palestinian people, the powers of the international conference, and the mechanism of the U.S. peace plan.

This came in a statement by an authoritative Jordanian source who added that Jordan responded to the U.S. answers in a letter addressed to the U.S. Administration last Monday.

At the beginning of this month, Jordan's monarch King Husayn said Amman presented a number of questions to the U.S. Administration and that Amman is expecting answers to them before Shultz' coming tour scheduled on 3 June.

Following are the details of the U.S. answers and Jordan's comments on them in accordance with informed Western and Jordanian diplomatic sources:

With regard to the Palestinian people's rights, the U.S. Administration's answer was that Washington recognizes the Palestinian people's civil and political rights.

But Washington is opposed to the establishment of a Palestinian state, favoring instead a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. The Jordanian comment affirmed the need for the Palestinian people to exercise their right to self-determination.

With regard to what is meant by the Palestinian people, the U.S. Administration said that it means the Palestinian people inside and outside [the occupied territory].

Jordan's comment was that the PLO, in its capacity as the sole, legitimate representative of all the Palestinian people, should participate in the peace talks.

With regard to the U.S. stand on the powers of the international conference, Amman totally rejected the U.S. concept on this conference. It noted that this gathering should reflect the moral influence of the five permanent members of the Security Council and that it should not be merely a silent conference.

With regard to the phases and timetable of the peace plan, Jordan's comment was that all short-term and long-term phases of the negotiations should proceed simultaneously.

Court Minister on Relations With PLO, U.S.

PM2605153188 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic 25-31 May 88 pp 17-19

[Interview with Royal Court Minister 'Adnan Abu 'Awdah by Nura Fakhuri in Amman; date not specified]

[Excerpts] [Fakhuri] What kind of relationship will Jordan have with the PLO in the future, especially after King Husayn announced the PLO's desire to participate at the international conference via a joint Egyptian-Palestinian delegation? And, consequently, will this proposal affect Egyptian-Jordanian relations?

[Abu 'Awdah] What King Husayn said should be understood in the right context. The king said that Jordan cannot replace the PLO and will not talk on behalf of the Palestinian people regarding the Palestinian problem.

But Jordan would be ready to reduce its representation by 50 percent if the PLO and the Arabs requested that the PLO participate at the conference. The king defined the concept of the joint delegation, namely two groups or delegations: a Jordanian and Palestinian delegation within a single expanded delegation.

According to the Jordanian concept, when both go to the international conference it is the Palestinian delegation, not the Jordanian delegation, which will talk about the Palestinian problem and its dimensions. Jordan by no means wants or wishes to talk about anything concerning the Palestinian problem. [passage omitted]

We know that the PLO rejected the idea of a joint delegation with Jordan. But Jordan discovered later that it had asked Egypt to participate with it in a joint delegation to the international conference.

That proved a very important point. That is, that in principle the question of a joint delegation is not unacceptable to the PLO. Proof of this is that the PLO has asked Egypt to participate with it in the delegation.

But the PLO's condition is that Jordan not be a partner in the delegation since it seems that the PLO sees Jordan as a rival which it fears to join at the conference. But the PLO accepts Egypt because it does not constitute a rival to the Palestinians.

In view of this background King Husayn made his statements to eliminate from Palestinian and non-Palestinian minds the impression that Jordan is a rival to the PLO—that is, has ambitions in the occupied Palestinian territory.

This is not the first time the king has said this; he told Yasir 'Arafat the same thing in the past, specifically after the Amman summit conference. He told him in exactly the same words.

But it seems that these words were not taken seriously, either by the Palestinians or some Arabs, or even by some foreign quarters. The king's message is directed not only to the Palestinians but to everyone in the world concerned about the Palestinian problem.

To all these we reiterate that Jordan will not be an alternative to the PLO. It will not represent the Palestinians; nor will it negotiate on behalf of them at any assembly or at any international conference to be convened, since this is purely a Palestinian affair and it is the PLO and the Palestinian people that must handle their problem. [passage omitted]

[Fakhuri] Despite this clarity, there is still an impression that tension dominates Jordanian-Palestinian relations and that similar tension could spread to Egyptian-Jordanian relations.

[Abu 'Awdah] We cannot see or sense such tension. Actually it is the opposite: We feel a kind of relaxation and comfort.

[Fakhuri] Because you no longer shoulder the responsibility?

[Abu 'Awdah] No. Such a position will not prevent us from shouldering our responsibility. [passage omitted]

[Fakhuri] How does Jordan view Syrian-Palestinian rapprochement? And will such rapprochement affect Syrian-Jordanian relations?

[Abu 'Awdah] This is a positive step. We hope it will be deepened further and become an important reality in the general Arab position. The accord and agreement conference (the Amman summit) was important primarily because it paved the way for bilateral Arab reconciliations.

We consider this step a blessed achievement of Arab rapprochement. That is why we support it. We believe that the relationship of Syria and the states surrounding Israel with the PLO must serve the interests of the Arab cause.

[Fakhuri] It seems that Jordan is still playing a role in Syrian-Iraqi reconciliation. What have the endeavors achieved?

[Abu 'Awdah] I have nothing new to say on this issue.

[Fakhuri] In a recent speech Prince Hasan linked the Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan and what is currently happening in the Middle East with the Shultz initiative. It is known that Shultz will return to the region shortly despite signs that his mission has failed. Do you think he is bringing something new this time?

[Abu 'Awdah] The significance of Shultz' visit this time, although he is believed to have failed in his initiative, lies in the fact that it will take place after a Soviet-U.S. summit.

We hope that the two states will be able to reach a kind of a balanced stand on the regional issues that concern us, foremost among which is the problem of the Arab-Israeli conflict.

If the Americans and the Soviets managed to reach a balanced stand based on international resolutions and international legitimacy, this would be a positive thing which we would welcome. We hope that Shultz will come to us after the meeting bringing good news of this kind.

[Fakhuri] What about the Arab stand toward the Soviet Union and vice versa? A positive development has been noticed recently in Soviet-Arab relations, not only with Jordan, but with many states in the region as well.

[Abu 'Awdah] In view of the concept of Arab-Soviet relations, two things have occurred in our region: First, the Soviet vision of the Arab region has developed considerably.

It has become a vision of a state dealing with states in the region, thus respecting them. The Soviet Union has begun to look at the region as a group of states. Whereas in the past it used to deal with parties rather than governments. It now gives precedence to relations with the Arab states and governments—which is a major development that satisfies both the Arab states and the Soviet Union.

The Arab states are satisfied because the Soviet stand, traditionally, is in support of the Arab stand, since it both understands and supports the legitimate demands of the Arabs.

The Arab stand has developed as well. The Arab side now realizes that the Soviet Union is interested in resolving regional problems and that its experience in Afghanistan and cooperation with the United States and other states in the region could secure a solution—which is a good omen for other regions, especially regarding the Gulf war problem and the Arab-Israeli conflict.

[Fakhuri] Do you not believe that this development is a reaction to the type of relationship now dominating the Arab-U.S. atmosphere, especially as most recent U.S. decisions and stands have been biased against the Arabs and supportive of Israel?

[Abu 'Awdah] Perhaps this has a limited impact, but it is not the main reason. The region now understands the Soviet reality. There is a Soviet reality in our region, which cannot be ignored. Our states now understand and accept it.

We do not view the Soviets as an alternative to the Americans. Proof of this is that our relations with the United States still stand. The United States, too, cannot be an alternative to the Russians. [passage omitted]

[Fakhuri] Jordan is considered to be one of the Arab states that maintain good relations with the United States. But since the uprising began it has been shown that the United States' only friend in the region is Israel.

[Abu 'Awdah] The word good must be explained. Does it mean that we do not argue, or does it mean that the United States does not besiege us economically? Our relations with the United States are normal, but not very good.

They are normal relations between us and a major country, like any relations between a small state, like us, and a state of the United States' size.

[Fakhuri] Do you mean they are not distinctive?

[Abu 'Awdah] They are not distinctive. What do we have which makes them distinctive?

[Fakhuri] You have politics!

[Abu 'Awdah] We have normal relations, which, regrettably, are not good. The reason is that the United States does not make them so, whether because of its stand on the Palestinian cause or because of the bilateral level between it and us, such as Congress' decision on arms for Jordan. Such matters sadden and dissatisfy us.

[Fakhuri] What steps will you take as a reaction to this unsatisfactory relationship?

[Abu 'Awdah] We have begun to seek arms from other sources. We regret that relations should reach such a state, though they are still normal and we are eager to keep them so, like our relations with Britain, the Soviet Union, China, and Europe in general.

But we maintain special relations with them, based on the good relations maintained in the past. Now our relations are very normal, but sullied by a kind of regret on our part.

[Fakhuri] There has been much talk about the new measures the Jordanian Government will take to "Jordanize" Jordan. There are rumors that the dissolution of parliament and the stripping of members of Palestinian origin of their powers are now imminent. There is also talk of a cabinet reshuffle in the near future.

[Abu 'Awdah] We are confused: If we maintain a small amount of useful ambiguity in our position, people say that Jordan is after the occupied territory. And if we reveal what we think openly, they, these same people, say Jordan wants to "Jordanize" Jordan.

If we decided to take these people's claims into account, we would be unable to take up a stand or move in any direction. The truth is that Jordan is still Jordan.

The king has always emphasized that Jordan is the symbol of national unity; he has stressed the need for national unity. The question is not an emotional one, as some imagine.

It is a rational and realistic question first of all. The Israelis think that the solution to their dilemma, as I said earlier, is in and via Jordan—which is unacceptable.

We will not accept that a solution should be via us. That is why we have become rivals to Israel in this process. I must first have a solid internal front. National unity of the homeland is the first element of solidity.

Whoever talks about "Jordanizing" Jordan is in fact against national unity and does not wish Jordan any good, whether or not he has good intentions. Every citizen in Jordan is Jordanian.

This country has various origins. What King Husayn wants to say to the Jordanians is: You must not content yourself with one half of the balanced formula by asking for your rights and ignoring your duties, or performing your duties and ignoring your rights.

Respect the fact that you are of Palestinian origin. However, Jordan is not like Angola or Bolivia; it is an Arab state adjacent and linked to Palestine. It interacts with it historically, culturally, and religiously. [passage omitted]

[Fakhuri] So parliament will not be dissolved.

[Abu 'Awdah] Parliament will not be dissolved. No one is thinking of such things.

[Fakhuri] What about the cabinet reshuffle or the dissolution of the present Council of Ministers?

[Abu 'Awdah] It is said that half of the members of the Council of Ministers are Palestinians, which confirms that Jordan has ambitions in the West Bank.

This is idle talk. Let us assume that the West Bank has been lost; half of the Jordanian people will remain Palestinian and there will be rights and duties. And since I am Jordanian I have the right to to become a minister or under secretary, regardless of my origin.

Shultz' Peace Conference 'Falsehoods' Examined

JN2605090888 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 May 88 pp 20, 17

[Article by the political editor: "Shultz Knows and Distorts"]

[Text] On 20 May, and before a group of Arab journalists, the U.S. secretary of state admitted that the essence of the U.S. plan, "Shultz' initiative", is the international peace conference that the Arabs had proposed. But this, he said, is unrealistic as long as Israel accepts only "a symbolic conference without any authority."

Although we do not intend to correct the notions of Mr George Shultz, the secretary of a superpower with great influence in the Middle East, we want to clarify the falsehoods that Mr Shultz is trying to cater to the Arab public opinion.

The United States did not originally agree to an international conference. It did not agree to Soviet participation even if the Soviets accepted restoring diplomatic relations with Israel, which were broken off following the 1967 aggression, and opening the door for Soviet Jews to emigrate to occupied Arab Palestine.

Mr. Shultz himself is one of the strongest opponents of an international conference exercising any power. He is the one who calls for a formal conference that would open direct negotiations between Israel and every Arab party individually.

These accusations are documented in the proceedings of the U.S. Congress, and in Jewish meetings in the United States. We are not falsely accusing Mr Shultz; we are only comparing what he said to Arab journalists to what he said in Congress and at Jewish meetings in Washington and New York.

In Shultz' view, the Arab view is unrealistic since Israel rejects it. If Shultz has taken the Israeli rejection for granted, then it is futile to discuss with him any other point related to the Middle East crisis as long as he is a captive of the long-standing Israeli rejection.

His strange admission that the international conference the Arabs are calling for to solve the region's crisis is the essence of the U.S. plan should have prevented him from hiding behind the Israeli rejection and abandoning the essence of the U.S. plan.

He should have—and he is a secretary of a superpower who does not receive instructions from an Arab journalist writer—dealt with the Israeli rejection of the international conference.

This is logical and in line with the United Nations and the Security Council's resolutions. He should have pushed Israel toward the international conference. He is able to do that since Israel exists on the U.S. taxpayers' alms of destructive weapons, ammunition, and generous economic aid.

With all regret, we say that for the United States to maintain its credibility and friendship, it cannot hide its international policy toward a region that extends from the Atlantic Ocean to the Arab Gulf, behind the Israeli rejection.

By such a stand, the United States does not place the Arab position beyond the boundaries of realism, as Shultz says, but places the U.S. interests and its international reputation beyond the boundaries of logic and acceptance in the Arab world.

In another part of his statement, Mr Shultz says that he will leave the U.S. plan for the coming administration in the White House. We would have hoped that he might have managed to determine the position of the U.S. superpower in the Middle East before the departure of the Reagan Administration.

We would have hoped this position would depart from supporting the aggressor and deflecting the rights of the aggrieved party to please a state that was established on coercion, oppression, and aggression.

We would have hoped that Shultz would have managed—and he is able and responsible for the U.S. foreign policy—to maintain the U.S. credibility and reputation in a region that has never fought the United States or its interests; although U.S. arms in the hands of the Israeli Army are contributing to the destruction of U.S. interests, reputation, and credibility in the region.

Article Views Government's Palestinian Stance

JN2605141988 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 26 May 88 p 12

[Article by Muhammad 'Abd al-Qadir al-Mahdi in Jerusalem]

[Text] The new and serious Jordanian stand is the most prominent event on the Palestinian arena. It will have a great effect on the present and future of the Palestinian people and the Arab-Israeli struggle.

This importance springs from the special relations between the two peoples and the two countries. Those who are aware of facts and those who follow the recent Jordanian moves and statements were not surprised.

However, the vast majority of the Palestinian people were shocked and horrified by the swift turn of events. People here were harsh in issuing their judgment but they have always found Jordan, particularly His Majesty King Husayn, rising above trivialities.

Therefore, the Jordanian move was considered a novelty in terms of Jordanian ideas and concepts. And in order to be fair, we must know the actual reasons that led to this Jordanian position.

No doubt, relations between the two peoples are ancient, going back to prehistoric times. The year 1950 was not the beginning of our journey together or the cornerstone of relations between the two banks of the Jordan.

What took place in Jericho was a translation of an ancient Arab policy—namely, seeking the protection of a neighbor. The Palestinian people, who were torn by the 1948 war, sought the protection of the Jordanian brother.

This happened as a result of insistence by the Palestinian figures who had been our fathers before relations with Jordan.

Seeking protection was not a matter of annexing Palestine to Jordan. It was a duty dictated by bonds of brotherhood and joint interests. Only those who are naive think that they can take without giving.

Relations that are based on the principle of sacrifices by one side are doomed to failure. Jordan offered the Palestinians much more than a state with limited resources could offer to a people seeking protection.

Our brothers in the East Bank, willingly and without being boastful, decided to share with us their livelihood as well as their land. The two peoples were able to record the second bright example in the history of the Arab nation—the first being the brotherhood that was forged between the Meccans who emigrated with the prophet and the people of Medina.

The people of Jordan and Palestine created the brightest and most advanced Arab country in the Arab east. Jordan bore the brunt of accusations in the spirit of the big brother and the protector.

Jordan continued to forgive, avoid hard feelings, and honor its word. However, what happened during the recent months surpassed the power of forbearance and tolerance.

Regimes are just like people. If you cannot be generous, sweet words can ease exhaustion and pain. But it seems that Jordan never obtained anything in return nor was it verbally thanked.

Everybody freely leveled insults at it and harmed it. Thus, they transcended the rules of protection and violated the rights of the protector, something which is taboo in Arab traditions.

To analyze the reasons, we should take into consideration the roles and stands of the Palestinian groups, their various bodies, and Jordan's dealing with them.

The PLO was established with Jordan's consent. King Husayn himself inaugurated its first conference. The largest contributions were from the sons of the West Bank and Jordan.

The late Muhammad al-Shuqayri returned with King Husayn on the same plane from Cairo on the eve of the 1967 June war. Jordan waged this war, fulfilling its Arab commitment.

This means that Jordan is not the only party responsible for losing the war in 1967. Jordan was the weakest party militarily and economically. Jordan also did not prevent the PLO from carrying out its duty, despite Al-Shuqayri's violent speeches, which would have liberated all humanity from injustice and slavery, had they been put into action.

Al-Shuqayri invested most of his time in condemning Jordan, saying that it constitutes an obstacle to "the liberation of Palestine". When Jordan was asked to allow Al-Shuqayri to go to the West Bank for mobilization and to prepare fighting groups, Jordan allowed him to go, and King Husayn forgot everything because Palestine and the Palestinian people's rights are more important than all personal sensitivities.

Since the beginning, Jordan has given the PLO what any fraternal regime could give.

The same thing happened after the war, when Jordan embraced the Palestinian organizations. The PLO leaders admit that Jordan has shouldered more responsibility than it can take.

After the September events, King Husayn stood in the face of all extreme attempts to destroy the Palestinian structure and he has restored unity for the Jordanian-Palestinian family.

Palestinians in and outside Jordan realize what would have happened without King Husayn. After that, and until recently, Jordan gave full consideration to the wishes of the PLO leaders, beginning with the Rabat conference and up to the Baghdad conference.

Jordan also supported the PLO's stand on the Camp David accords, despite the generous offers it received. When no place was available for the convening of the 17th PNC session, Amman extended its arms and, for the first time, the Palestinians in the occupied territories saw the PLO leaders speaking on television screens.

Following the events of Beirut and Tripoli, Jordan became the gateway for communication with the occupied territory. The PLO made its greatest achievements on the level of organization, establishing of institutions, and increasing its influence on the West Bank's citizens.

In short, Jordan has given more than any other country. Those who try to cast doubts on Jordan's intentions toward the PLO have not, undoubtedly, read the history or understood it. They should refer to the texts and protocols.

The other side of the Palestinian people is another story. While the PLO represented a jump over the constitutional relationship between the two banks, others have reflected the nature of this relationship but they did not fight for it.

They were not ready to defend it. Because Jordan had no desire to uproot the other side or conspire against it, it often accepted their explanation of the impotence philosophy. They were always embarassed to express their commitment to the regime. Instead, they gave trivial excuses for their relations with it. The elements which felt that it was their duty to play a constructive role and which did the most they could to clarify the picture, were all the time hostage to orders and directions.

Furthermore, they lacked legitimacy, which they tried, and are still trying, to gain by recruiting more cadres who believe in the necessity of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship and the need to develop it, or at least to preserve it.

All this has prevented the Jordanian regime from differentiating between the stands of these people and the aspirations of the majority of the sons of the Palestinian people who reject the dismantling of the brotherhood and unity ties between the two fraternal peoples.

The third face of the Jordanian-Palestinian relationship are the Palestinians who reside in Jordan, and who try to be the bridge between the PLO and the people in the occupied territories instead of trying to become a main element in the Jordanian-Palestinian unity.

For all this, Jordan has not received a word of thanks, not from those who breath its air and enjoy its resources or from those who enjoy its gifts. Now is the time to question ourselves.

The big questions that have to be asked: Why is this? Who is it for? Who will benefit and who will lose? How do we confront it? Why do we hesitate to reject it?

AL-DUSTUR Criticizes Israeli Raids in Lebanon

JN2705092888 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 27 May 88 p 1

[Editorial: "Encroachment on Arab Security"]

[Text] The series of attacks that Israel has been carrying out during the past 2 days on a number of villages and residential areas in southern Lebanon only prove further that the Zionist entity still adheres to terrorism and insists on intensifying the violence in the region in any way possible.

It has also become clear that Israel continues to behave as if it had the right to violate the sovereignty of any Arab state and kill and terrify its residents without restraint or deterrence from anyone.

Undoubtedly, the support Israel is receiving from numerous international powers, led by the United States, is responsible for Israel's continued recklessness and terrorism.

The United States used its veto to annul the draft resolution that the Security Council was about to issue to condemn the terrorist military operation in southern Lebanon a few weeks ago.

It is only natural for Israel to interpret this stand as support for its continued disruption of Arab security and its arrogance on the land and in the sky of the region.

If fraternal Lebanon announces its intention to lodge a new complaint to the Security Council condemning the last Israeli incursion onto its soil, in which a large number of civilians were killed and houses destroyed in various residential areas in southern Lebanon, the U.S. veto will block any new resolution to condemn Israel.

Thus, Israel will be encouraged to encroach on the sovereignty of the Arab states in the East and the West, with no one to deter it or put it in its place.

These terrorist Israeli attacks against the sovereignty of Lebanon and the independence of its territories are taking place at the same time that Israel is continuing its indiscriminate suppression, by various savage methods, of our steadfast kinfolk's uprising in the occupied Arab territories.

As Israel is bombing the villages of the south and killing, arresting, and terrifying the citizens, so are its military forces bombing the houses of innocent citizens, as happened in the village of Bayta, and killing and arresting Arab citizens on the West Bank and Gaza. Israeli terrorist methods are the same everywhere, and Arab blood is always the target.

Israel's disregard for Arab security and continued encroachment on the sovereignty and independence of the Arab countries is an issue that the Arab leaders should not forget in any meeting in the near future.

Before delving into any other topic, the sanctity of Arab security should be the priority issue for Arabs everywhere. Israel would not have continued its transgressions on Arab security had it found unified Arab ranks defending Arab security and the sanctity of every inch of Arab land.

Assassination Attempt Made on Syria's Kan'an

NC2605214288 Paris AFP in English 2137 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] Beirut, May 20 (AFP)—Top Syrian General Ghazi Kan'an survived an assassination attempt in a Hizballah-controlled Beirut suburb on Thursday shortly after announcing that his troops will deploy in the pro-Iranian group's suburban strongholds on Friday, Syrian military sources said.

Gen. Kan'an's convoy had just left the house of Hizballah's spiritual leader, Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, when his bullet-proof car was sprayed with machine-gun fire, the sources said.

The shots hit the general's blue Mercedes on the side where he was sitting. The man driving his car, General Sa'id Bayraqdar, said: "The car was hit by dozens of bullets, its fuel tank was punctured, and the general had to change cars.

Bodyguards travelling in three Range Rovers in the convoy were slightly hurt, the Syrian sources said.

The attack took place on Al-Ghubayrah Boulevard, near a roundabout with the strategically-important Airport Road. [passage omitted]

After the assassination attempt Gen. Bayraqdar said: "We are determined to save the suburb, and what has just happened will not affect our mission, because the main thing is that Lebanon will emerge intact.

Further Repertage on Amal, Hizballah Clashes

Al-Asad-Hizballah Agreement

NC2605182088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The Central News Agency has disclosed that the agreement reached during a meeting between Syrian President al-Asad and the Hizballah delegation in Latakia yesterday regarding the Syrian deployment in the suburb povides for the withdrawal of gunmen before the Syrian forces enter. The Syrian forces will be changed with implementing a cease-fire and withdrawing gunmen from streets and buildings. Any gunman seen on the streets will be a target. The agreement also provides for the Syrian forces to take up posts in the suburb. Party offices will be opened only for political and news dissemination activities. Military action will be confined to the contact lines.

According to the agreement, 1 or 2 months after the deployment of Syrian forces and their consolidation of the cease-fire in the suburb and along the combat lines, the Syrian forces will gradually be replaced by internal security forces.

Bombing Near Syrian Post

NC2605193788 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1715 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] As Syrian forces prepare to deploy in the suburb, we have received a report from Ba'labakk that a bomb exploded in a restaurant adjacent to the Syrian military police headquarters at 1300 today. Syrian soldiers surrounded the area, making it difficult to learn if there were any casualties. An AFP correspondent, however, noted that the restaurant, which is frequented by Syrian soldiers, and other nearby shops were badly damaged.

This is the first explosion this year near a Syrian post in this area, where Syrian forces recently tightened security measures, scrutinized identity cards at checkpoints, and prevented the carrying of arms.

Kan'an Meets Various Officials

NC2605211188 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1945 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an, chief of the Syrian intelligence service in Lebanon, has stated that the security plan for the southern suburb will be implemented tomorrow. He disclosed that the Syrian forces will separate the combatants and then deploy to specified posts. Kan'an pointed out that the presence of the two disputant parties in the suburb will be confined to political and information offices.

After meeting with Speaker Husayn al-Husayni tonight, Kan'an said that the war in the southern suburb has ended. The meeting was attended by Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar, commander of the Syrian occupation forces in Lebanon and Brigadier General 'Ali Hammud, chief of the Syrian observers team in West Beirut.

Kan'an, Bayraqdar, and Hammud also met with Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss, and Muhammad Mahdi Shams al-Din, deputy chairman of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council. Kan'an will meet later with Muslim leaders to brief them on what has been agreed upon in Damascus.

A security meeting also was held at the home of Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi tonight. It was attended by Bayraqdar, Kan'an, and 'Ali Hammud; Maj Gen 'Umar Makhzumi, director general of the internal security forces; Gendarme Commander Brig Gen Antoine Nasr; and Beirut Police Commander Muhammad Qubruli.

Following the meeting, Minister al-Rasi disclosed that the discussions dealt with the steps needed to expand the so-called West Beirut security plan to include the southern suburb and the aspects of coordination which will take place between the Syrian forces and internal security forces in this respect.

Al-Rasi said that a second meeting will be held tomorrow morning. He pointed out that the internal security forces will deploy alongside the Syrian occupation forces.

Plan for Suburb Detailed

NC2705070488 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0545 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] The Syrian entry into the southern suburb begins today in accordance with an agreement that has been finalized between Hizballah and the Syrian leaders. The agreement aims to end the internecine fighting among the Muslims and regulate the relationship between the Amal Movement and Hizballah.

A delegation of Hizballah leaders met with Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad for 3 hours in Latakia. The two parties discussed the latest political and security developments regarding the south and the southern suburb. An atmosphere of understanding and mutual confidence prevailed during the meeting. President al-Asad stressed the strategic relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and reiterated his support for the Islamic resistance in the south, as well as his belief that painstaking efforts should be made to halt the infighting among Muslims and regulate the relationship between the Amal Movement and Hizballah in all domains.

An agreement had been reached between the Syrian leaders and Hizballah with regard to the southern suburb. The agreement contains the following points:
1. Syrian forces will enter the southern suburb to establish a cease-fire and ensure the withdrawal of all gunmen;
2. These forces will deploy in the appropriate positions;
3. Amal and Hizballah offices in the suburb will become political and information offices;
4. The two parties will maintain a military presence on the contact lines; and
5. The Syrian forces will gradually be reduced in number as they are replaced by the internal security forces.

The details of the agreement's provisions and the methods of its implementation will be handled by the quadripartite committee.

Fighting Flares Up

NC2705084088 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0815 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] The Syrians are preparing to enter the southern suburb. Meanwhile, the security situation between Amal and Hizballah gunmen flared up on the suburb combat lines between 0900 and 0930 today. Clashes in which artillery and rockets were used took place in the Al-Shiyah, Rawdat al-Shahidayn, and Al-Ghubayrah areas. The two sides are now exchanging machinegun fire only.

Meanwhile, 200 members of the internal security forces left the Shatila traffic circle after assembling there at 0800 today. They will return at approximately 1100 to join the Syrian forces, which are scheduled to enter the suburb, according to Syrian command sources. The Syrians are now assembling at the Shatila traffic circle, Cocodi, and Al-Rasul al-A'zam.

A well-informed source has affirmed that the Syrian entry will not include the contact lines with the eastern area, which will be taken over by the 6th Brigade later on. The Syrian plan also excludes the Hizballah barracks in Hayy Madi. This is Hizballah's most important barracks in the suburb.

Syrian Deployment Begins

NC2705125388 (Clandestine) Voice of the People in Arabic to Lebanon 1130 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] The implementation of the Syrian decision, made 11 days ago, to enter the southern suburb began at 1115 today. A joint Syrian and internal security force, estimated at 400 men and led by Colonel al-Daghistani and Colonel 'Ali 'Ashur, set out from the Shatila traffic circle and the airport bridge.

In the first phase, the deployment took place in the areas of greatest tension, namely, on the Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayrah axes. Lieutenant Colonel Amir Talli; Ahmad al-Ba'labakki on behalf of the Amal Movement; and 'Abd al-Hadi Hamadah on behalf of Hizballah supervised the deployment.

Lt Col Talli has given orders to the Syrian forces to open fire at any gunmen seen in the streets.

The second phase of the deployment plan will go into effect tomorrow. It includes the closure of military offices, the removal of earth barricades, and deployment into all the suburb's streets and quarters. A security source noted that the first phase of the plan was completed tooday without any impediments.

These developments were preceded by an attempt to attack members of the Syrian command in Al-Ghubayrah yesterday, when the motorcade of Major General Sa'id Bayraqdar and Staff Brigadier General Ghazi Kan'an came under a hail of bullets. The two Syrian officials escaped death.

It is reported that Brig Gen 'Ali Hammud has summoned Husayn Khalil, a Hizballah official who is a member of the quadripartite committee, to the headquarters of the Syrian security detachment which is 100 meters east of the airport circle. Brig Gen Hammud asked Khalil to hand over those who had opened fire at the motorcade.

Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss today contacted Staff Brig Gen Kan'an, who briefed him on the progress of the implementation of the plan. Al-Huss congratulated Kan'an on his escape from the attempt on his life.

Maj Gen Bayraqdar and Staff Brig Gen Kan'an visited Minister Nabih Birri this afternoon. Eng 'Asim Qansuh, [regional secretary of the Ba'th Party Organization in Lebanon] also attended the meeting.

Going back to the deployment operation, the security forces have thus far deployed in several positions: in Rawdat al-Shahidayn, Al-Ghubayrah secondary school, and near the Al-Amin pharmacy in Al-Shiyah. The security force has also established roadblocks on Al-Hujjaj Street, in Al-Musharrafiyah, Hayy Mu'awwad, and in Marum Misk Street.

Our correspondent has informed us that the forces began to deploy from outside the Al-Miqdad gasoline station, moving toward the Amal Movement's security center near Rawdat al-Shahidayn and then in the direction of Al-Ghubayrah secondary school. The security forces then proceeded toward the entrances to Al-Shiyah near the 'Abd al-Latif al-Amin Pharmacy.

An officer in the internal security forces has told our radio station that this step is the beginning of the first phase in the development plan, which will be completed today.

The joint security forces have not taken any vehicles with them and their only weapons are light-caliber machineguns and RPG's, pending removal of obstacles from the streets left from the destruction caused by the battles. Thus, the deployment operation is continuing without any security impediments. Meanwhile, the gunmen are retreating as the security forces advance. They are withdrawing to the inner areas of the suburb. It has been observed that the inhabitants of the afflicted area are following the Syrian and security forces into the suburb. The remaining inhabitants are welcoming the incoming forces with cheers and they are sprinkling rice.

Deployment Halted Until 28 May

NC2705143188 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] The Syrian-Lebanese deployment operation was halted at approximately 1500 today after a Syrian force, backed by internal security forces, took positions on Al-Khansa' Street in the Al-Ghubayrah area. The deployment operation will be completed tomorrow and will include all areas in the southern suburb.

Syria 'Given Guarantees' on Western Hostages

NC2705090688 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0845 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Press sources have cited a responsible source in a pro-Syrian Lebanese party, who declined to reveal his name, as saying that Syria decided to deploy its forces today after it was given guarantees regarding the solution of the Western hostages issue.

Hostages Reportedly Moved To Sfayr-Mar Mikha'il

NC2705123588 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 1220 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] According to information received by the Voice of Lebanon, the hostages have been moved from their place of detention to the Sfayr-Mar Mikha'il area in Al-Shiyah.

Islamic Resistance Claims 50 'Enemy' Casualties

NC2605184088 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1630 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] The Islamic resistance has announced that the attack which a joint force of the Israeli occupation army and agent Lahd militia launched this morning ended this afternoon. A source told AFP that the 300 enemy soldiers and Lahd militia personnel have withdrawn from the vicinity of Al-Lawayzah and returned to the so-called security-belt zone. The source affirmed that this force was unable to enter the town. [passage omitted]

The Islamic resistance issued two statements today speaking about Israeli advances on the Jabal Safi and Radar axes, and ferocious confrontations which led to the martyrdom of 10 resistance fighters and to the killing or wounding of approximately 50 enemy soldiers. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, the Lebanese National Resistance Front has issued a statement detailing the attack which its fighters have launched against an agent's position in Al-Qantarah. The Front said that Martyrs Hisham 'Asi and Ahmad Ramadan group attacked the position, killing or wounding seven agents and destroying [word indistinct].

Ja'ja' Rejects Rumors on Ties With Hizballah

NC2605153288 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1445 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Dr Samir Ja'ja' has commented on rumors about collaboration between Hizballah and the Lebanese Forces, as well as on the issue of extremism there [in the southern suburb] and what is described as extremism here [East Beirut]. He said: The Lebanese Forces are a resistance movement which has specific and explicit goals, while Hizballah is a totalitarian one with philosophical, social, and political systems, and an impervious structure. As regards practice and politics, Hizballah's plan in Lebanon aims to establish an Islamic republic while the goal of the political plan of the Lebanese Forces is a united Lebanese republic.

In practice, Hizballah adopts methods of terrorism, such as kidnapping hostages and hijacking airplanes, while the Lebanese Forces have sought and continue to seek an end to the acts of terrorism committed in Lebanon.

With regard to foreign relations, Hizballah is linked to the Islamic world as a whole and with Iran specifically, at a time when the Lebanese Forces have explicit political relations with all world countries, including the region's states. Therefore, I am sirprised about the talk on relations between the Lebanese Forces and Hizballah.

Fadlallah Interviewed on Beirut Fighting

JN2505094288 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic
25 May 88 p 23

[Interview with Shi'ite scholar Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah by Zuhayr Majid in Beirut; date not given]

[Text] [Majid] When will the war in Beirut's southern suburb end?

[Fadlallah] I imagine it will not be too long now. However, as in all the Lebanese wars the problem in the southern suburb war is that the security aspect and the political aspect are mixed together, and the political aspect is not confined to the domestic situation but has regional, sometimes even international dimensions. The southern suburb war was intended to end in 1 or 2 days. However, external political complications prolonged the war so that political results on several levels can be achieved.

[Majid] Does that mean a new equation has been introduced into Lebanon and the region as a result of the southern suburb war?

[Fadlallah] I do not believe the word equation is precise. However, the southern suburb war has given the impression that the balance of forces in the region is not permanent and always on the surface. There may be forces deep below the surface and not apparent, but events may occur and highlight the role of such forces. This is the problem that faced the Islamic trend when others became aware that it has a great force capable of effectively entering the arena of struggle, and imagined there is a threat to the political situation at home and abroad.

[Majid] However, the southern suburb war has created new contact lines. For instance, Hizballah's slogan has become "Liberation must begin from Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayri."

[Fadlallah] I do not believe there is an objective within that framework. According to my information I can say that if the cease-fire holds then there will be no problem. I can also confirm what we previously advocated; namely, that if balanced relations between Hizballah and Amal are achieved politically, then Hizballah does not want to be the policeman of the southern suburb and does not want to turn the southern suburb into a canton. Hizballah wants to cooperate with Amal and to give back to Amal its previous role—when the situation is balanced through agreements that guarantee peaceful coexistence.

[Majid] Some Iranians assert that Amal was defeated in the southern suburb. However, Hizballah's defeat was greater because its masses have left.

[Fadlallah] I believe the exodus of people has no political significance, but some people want to exploit it politically. The exodus of people from the southern suburb was, at first, a result of the exaggeration in which some leaders and bodies indulged. For instance, we notice that fighting has continued in Al-Shiyah and Al-Ghubayri, whereas there is no fighting in other areas. Thus there is no problem in the people's exodus from or entry into the southern suburb. Talk about these people being afraid is an illusion. However, statements warning them not to return to the southern suburb frightened the people about the security problems that awaited them. The media used to suggest that there will be a battle between the Syrians and Hizballah, and that is why the people have not returned.

That is the estrangement created behind the scenes. We do not believe the people's exodus is politically significant, but it is a result of a fear of the security situation that is being provoked on various horizons.

[Majid] What was behind the firing of the five shells at your house during the battles?

[Fadlallah] Those who attacked me think I represent the public face of Hizballah, and that this public face represents legitimacy. Therefore, they wanted to destroy that public face. I believe more than one U.S. and Israeli side support this trend because I was the subject of more than one assassination attempt. Although Western media are describing me as the spiritual leader of Hizballah, I have repeatedly stated that I am with the Islamic framework in general. I do not work with Hizballah or any other organization and I am not a party to its decisions. If I had been, I would have bravely admitted it.

The problem is that the media are persistently raising this question although I have denied it, not for fear of such a responsibility, but because I do not want such an unrealistic description of my private life. Some people are trying to instigate grudges against me, but I always rise above these slurs and I ask God to forgive them because they do not know the truth.

[Majid] It has been said that the shells fired at you were the result of the dialogue you had begun with the Americans, but that this time the dialogue was a heated one. Is this true?

[Fadlallah] Maybe. I do not rule out the U.S. factor in this regard, but I am one of those who hold dialogues even with their enemies. I do not believe dialogue has to be a heated one in order to attract me because I also talk in a calm atmosphere.

[Majid] How do you view your dialogue with the Americans, particularly your recent public statements on the issue of the hostages?

[Fadlallah] I am not a party in this dialogue. One day a representative of an international news agency came to me and said: What is your advice to the countries that have hostages in Lebanon? I said: No one asked for my advice, and I hope that this file, which has created humanitarian and political complications in more than one area, will be closed. I also advise both the abductors and the countries connected with the hostages to refrain from media campaigns and to study the issue in a realistic manner in order to create an apropriate atmosphere. I say this to hint about the existence of a positive atmosphere in the arena, but I have no information in this regard.

[Majid] Does Hizballah still insist on returning to the south, although Amal insists on preventing such a return?

[Fadlallah] According to my information, its wants to return to the south so that it can play its basic role in the Islamic resistance against Israel.

[Majid] What is the best plan to achieve a just solution to the situation in the southern suburb?

[Fadlallah] I believe the Syrian entry is imminent, but the problem is that before or during the Syrian entry, a negative psychological atmosphere exists that suggests the Syrians are coming to confront that group. The international and local political media are talking about a blow to the fundamentalists and a Syrian military source said that this situation has become serious and should be dealt with as a whole. There has also been a media campaign to depict the Syrian Army as a militia. This has created an atmosphere of wariness and fear. Islamists are coexisting with the Syrians in West Beirut and Al-Biqa' without any problems. Therefore, there is no need to believe there is a problem over a Syrian entry into the suburb, particularly as we have been suffering from an absence of security in the suburb by those who were responsible for maintaining it there.

[Majid] What is Iranian diplomacy trying to get from the Syrians? Is the shuttle diplomacy of Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed 'Ali Besharati between Beirut and Damascus aimed at obtaining guarantees for Hizballah?

[Fadlallah] I believe Iran and Syria maintain political relations that may conflict in some areas of the Lebanese arena. Therefore, the current efforts to end the suburb's problem are coupled with Syrian-Iranian political contacts and efforts.

[Majid] What are the specific aims of the Iranian-Syrian contacts on the issue of the suburb?

[Fadlallah] They are aimed at preventing any problems in the Syrian-Iranian relations as a result of incidents in the suburb.

[Majid] Can the incidents in the suburb hurt these relations?

[Fadlallah] Many are trying to exploit these incidents to achieve that goal, but the Iranians and Syrians are aware of this.

[Majid] Is there a specific Iranian-Syrian plan for the southern suburb?

[Fadlallah] I believe that the talks center on many plans, but I do not believe these plans conflict. It seems that possible options are being discussed. In the final analysis, these options should produce a positive result.

[Majid] There is Lebanese confirmation that Hizballah is waging the suburb battle to prompt the political parties in Lebanon to recognize it as an important political party in Lebanese politics.

[Fadlallah] I affirm that the suburb battle did not erupt as a result of any plan, but as a result of problems and political fears created by the media on the international, regional, and local levels. There is a plan, but the results may reach some of them. [sentence as published]

[Majid] It is said that what is happening between Amal and Hizballah, particularly in southern Lebanon, is an expression of the situation described in the Tehran agreement signed by them in 1985.

[Fadlallah] That is not correct. As for the Tehran agreement, it was intended to organize the relationship between Hizballah and Amal.

[Majid] Were the details of that agreement implemented after it was signed?

[Fadlallah] They were not implemented satisfactorily.

[Majid] Who in your view broke the agreement?

[Fadlallah] Perhaps more than one side.

[Majid] What possible effect can the southern suburb war have on Nabih Birri's leadership?

[Fadlallah] I do not like to comment on such a matter.

[Majid] At the beginning of the fighting in the southern suburb you indicated that Nabih Birri was given an opportunity but he did not make use of it.

[Fadlallah] I did not give any interviews on the matter, and I denied it at the time.

[Majid] Do you still have a relationship with Nabih Birri? Is it still the same?

[Fadlallah] One cannot sever relations with any active side in the arena, regardless of one's view of that side.

[Majid] And what is your view of Birri?

[Fadlallah] I do not believe in isolation.

[Majid] Some Lebanese political circles say that the southern suburb war has weakened the Shi'ite decision on many internal Lebanese issues. Is that possible in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] I cannot make an absolute judgment in that regard because we do not know what changes will occur when the incidents in the southern suburb end. The balances of power in the Lebanese arena are influenced not only by local factors but also by external factors.

[Majid] Do you believe that what happened in the southern suburb is a prelude to similar events in East Beirut?

[Fadlallah] It is true that the closer the Lebanese elections become the faster events occur that seek to create a situation that prevents those who want to torpedo the elections from doing so. I believe the situation in East Beirut is subject to international factors. It is not particularly necessary that what happened here should happen there. The Israeli factor is interlinked with the U.S. factor, and the Vatican has a greater role. We know that Lebanese Christian politics are connected with several sides in Western policy.

[Majid] What effect can the events in the southern suburb have on the forthcoming constitutional situation connected with the expiration of the presidential term?

[Fadlallah] I believe it has reshuffled many of the cards in the Muslim arena. To what extent it is possible to return these cards to what they used to be is a matter of time.

[Majid] Will that affect the Lebanese presidential elections?

[Fadlallah] I believe that those who made Lebanon will not allow any constitutional vacuum in it.

[Majid] What is the effect of the events in the southern suburb on your personal future?

[Fadlallah] I do not believe that such events can have any effect. I believe that a person who lives in a situation in which he respects himself cannot be affected by media exaggeration. I am not one of those who have ambitions in gaining a position in order to ask others to give up that position.

Mufti Qabalan Interviewed on Situation in Suburb

NC2505085388 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic
23 May 88 pp 15-17

[Interview with Ja'farite Mufti 'Abd al-Amir Qabalan by unidentified reporter; date and place not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-SHIRA'] What is actually going on in the southern suburb?

[Qabalan] Events in the suburb are acts of vengeance to atone for the loss inflicted on those people. They wanted to restore prestige to their organization and elements by embarking on a military operation within the sphere of influence of those who had defeated them. [passage omitted]

Our battle is not with a certain party, large or small. Our battle is with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Let those of you who emerge with different faces know that you are stronger and more capable than we are. You have the money, the state, the authority, and the system, while we have nothing, not even the ruins. You can uproot everybody. You can occupy the suburb, West Beirut, and all Lebanese soil, yet we will not surrender to you, we will never abase ourselves.

I reject all you stand for because I have tried and tested you. Leave us alone before it is too late. You may be strong, but our hatred has made us stronger. Many may be offended by what I am saying, but it is those people who made us cry for blood. Let them cry with us. The south will never surrender to a second occupation. The suburb will not remain in the hands of the new occupiers. We will never allow the suburb to turn into a substitute for Al-Faw. We will not accept their Guards, their rulings, or any militia, whatever it may be. We want security for the people, which can be achieved only through the Syrian Arab forces. If they do not agree, we will ask Michele 'Awn [Lebanese Army commander] to bring in his troops. [passage omitted]

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you think current negotiations might settle the matter?

[Qabalan] These are a waste of time and entail further losses, both human and financial. I am surprised that Amal is holding negotiations with an opponent and accepting it as a referee. The only fight we had was with the Islamic Republic. Iran is fighting us and saying we are all her sons. However, it strikes one of those sons with a poisonous stick and presents the other with blessings. Iran has killed me, insulted me, and displaced me. I ask God's forgivness if this can be called fatherhood. It is a son's right to inherit a pure name from his father who should also educate him well. Yet this fatherhood has improved neither my name nor my learning. Therefore, I strongly demand the entry of the Syrian Arab forces into the suburb; otherwise, they will find the conspiracy at their own doorstep. As for me, I have become exhausted and helpless. They killed me in the suburb, and they are chasing me in Beirut.

[AL-SHIRA'] How do you view the formation of a joint Syrian-Iranian force to establish security in the southern suburb and end the fighting?

[Qabalan] This would be the gravest disaster of all. We reject a joint Amal-Hizballah force, let alone a Syrian-Iranian one. Besides, will Syria accept a partnership which is a trap?

[AL-SHIRA'] However, it appears that Iran rejects the entry of the Syrian forces.

[Qabalan] We will persist in our demand for the entry of the Syrian forces. Iran is not our guardian.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you have any specific ways of speeding up the entry of the Syrian forces if it continues to be delayed?

[Qabalan] We will back the demand for the entry of the Syrian forces with all our strength. We will also tell the masses to have their say, because our only concern is the people's comfort and security.

[AL-SHIRA'] What will be the future situation in the suburb if the Syrian forces stay away?

[Qabalan] We expect more destruction and presence of gangs, and more human and material losses. As we said before, the suburb's residents will be compelled to demand that their state protect them from the foreigners. Forewarned is forearmed.

[AL-SHIRA'] Some say that the majority of the people do not support the Syrian forces' entery into the suburb. This is evident in statements made by some mediators. What is your opinion?

[Qabalan] Naturally, the majority of the people want security. All want security, but there are no regular forces on the ground, except for the Syrian Arab forces. If you search with a magnifying glass for people who might be harmed by their entry, there are many. However, if you ask the people to frankly state their opinion, you will find that at least 99 percent of the people support the establishment of security or want order to prevail.

[AL-SHIRA'] In your opinion, what are the most important reasons behind the delay of the Syrian forces' entry?

[Qabalan] Some say that the United States and Iran do not want the Syrians to enter the suburb. The United States is worried about the fate of the hostages and Iran wants to hold the suburb hostage until it can reap its sweet reward. I do not believe Syria will submit to these two states because the masses are demanding to be saved. The masses think well of Syria because it responded to the demand of Beirut's inhabitants last year. I do not think Syria will fail to respond to the demand of the suburb's inhabitants to expel the armed scum.

[AL-SHIRA'] In your previous answers, you said that what is taking place in the suburb is an act of vengeance. Does this mean you hold Amal, with its expulsion of Hizballah from the south, responsible for starting these battles, through which Hizballah is trying to remove Amal from the suburb?

[Qabalan] No. The battles in the south began with the incident in Haruf. The battles in the suburb started after three members of the Dabus clan, affiliated with Amal, were killed. The identity of the aggressors is obvious. They were the cause of what happened in Haruf and what is taking place in the suburb.

[AL-SHIRA'] Hizballah claims, however, that there are more important reasons, such as preventing it from expressing itself and outlining its positions, and from launching the Islamic resistance.

[Qabalan] Nobody has prevented it. Who has prevented it from expressing an opinion? In Hizballah they work day and night in their cells and organization, in the media, resistance, and mobilization, to turn the people into an army. Who has prevented this?

[AL-SHIRA'] Why has the role of the Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council been eclipsed? Can one consider the Iranian Embassy's becoming the focus of mediation efforts a sign that the council's role is over?

[Qabalan] The Higher Islamic Shi'ite Council has a basic vanguard role. It was established to watch over the sect's affairs, shoulder its concerns, and serve as its official spokesman. Thus we have abandoned individual leadership for the function of institutions so that these institutions can serve the homeland and the people of the institution. No one can abolish the Shi'ite Council's role. The Council was established to stay, not to become a marginal institution.

[AL-SHIRA'] Is it possible to believe that events will harm Imam al-Sadr's policy line?

[Qabalan] Absolutely not. Even if we assume that this is the intent, no one will be able to do it. However, harming Al-Sadr's institutions will lead to harming his policy. [sentence as heard] Sometimes a policy can be developed or amended. It is not possible, however, to abolish this policy totally because it is the fundamental logical policy on which all matters are based and through which problems are resolved. Striking at the institutions also means attacking the goals which Imam al-Sadr sought to achieve.

[AL-SHIRA'] You have held Iran responsible for developments. What do you think its goals are?

[Qabalan] The Islamic Republic wants everyone to obey it unconditionally. We do not object to giving allegiance to Islam, if within the scope of this allegiance a person's life, his environment, aspirations, and hopes are also considered. In Lebanon we do not accept political proposals unless they serve the homeland's and citizens' interests and preserve unity, coexistence of its people, and independence. However, when they implement something detailed in their country and ask us to do the same here, we do not accept or agree to such a course of action. So a breach has developed between our views and their views and goals, a distance between our position and theirs.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you possess the means to resist if it is not possible for the Syrian forces to enter?

[Qabalan] We oppose fighting and all violence. We do not want it. We want a dialogue and a conflict only of ideas. We do not want to abolish the people's role or accept the people's abolishing ours. I do not accept being controlled by Amal or any other party. Everyone has his own views and concepts. If I do not accept their viewpoit, why should I be regarded as an infidel? We must deal with matters through dialogue, not force, which never bears fruit. If the intent is to impose concepts on people by force, then the people will regress, making no progress.

[AL-SHIRA'] In your opinion, what will be the repercussions from all this?

[Qabalan] The internecine fighting that has struck our ranks will move us to a feuding tribal life, replete with acts of revenge. This is a dangerous, slippery trap which could drive everyone to the abyss. We must therefore stop the language of arms and resort to the language of reason and dialogue.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you keep figures on the evacuation of the suburb?

[Qabalan] Eighty percent of the suburb's inhabitants have already left.

[AL-SHIRA'] Are you calling on the people to return?

[Qabalan] I am not in favor of this. This should take place only after the entry of an effective security forcen that can restore security. However, the return of evacuees to their homes in this tragic, aggressive situation would only add to the material and human losses. Therefore, we urge the masses to stage demonstrations, sit-ins, and strikes, and to continue to request that the Syrian forces enter the suburb.

[Al-SHIRA'] Do you believe there is an overwhelming popular consensus in favor of the Syrian forces' entry into the suburb?

[Qabalan] That is what I believe. Many people are persistently demanding security, and this can only be attained by those in charge of security in West Beirut.

[AL-SHIRA'] Is there any connection between the events in the suburb and the presidential elections? Will these events influence the general political framework?

[Qabalan] I do not think that this new situation will affect future developments, because everyone believes that this abnormal situation cannot be solved by logic and wisdom.

[AL-SHIRA'] In your opinion, how will Hizballah's current control of the suburb turn out?

[Qabalan] The existing control will not last long. The masses and people are opposed to or not convinced of this line of thinking. They will not allow the control to continue.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you expect the Syrian forces to enter the suburb, or has this been blocked?

[Qabalan] I expect they will enter soon to settle the sedition and put out the fires in the hearts of many people. The return of the inhabitants to the suburb in the absence of a regular force would foster acts of revenge. God only knows what would happen then.

[AL-SHIRA'] Do you have anything to say to the suburb inhabitants?

[Qabalan] I advise all of our kinfolk in the suburb to move swiftly to ask the Syrian forces to impose security. When this is done and the militias are driven out of the suburb, we will return to rebuild the area.

[AL-SHIRA'] What is your opinion of the report that Iran has expressed a readiness to compensate for damages?

[Qabalan] We wish they had not killed us. However, if they want to make compensation, it is up to the people to accept or reject it.

Team Investigates Israel's Human Rights Record

JN2605084288 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Damascus—The committee entrusted with investigating Israeli practices against human rights in the occupied Arab territories held a meeting in Damascus yesterday during which it listened to the Syrian Arab statement on the situation in the occupied Arab territories.

During his meeting with the committee, Assistant Foreign Minister Dia'ullah al-Fattal explained the Syrian Arab statement on the repressive Israeli practices against unarmed Arab citizens.

He focused on the savage Israeli violations of the simplest civil rights of these citizens in all occupied Arab territories. The assistant foreign minister asserted that the inhuman actions carried out by the Israeli authorities, as well as their savage practices and the genocide committed against Arab civilians in the Golan, West Bank, and Gaza Strip, constitute war crimes according to the Fourth Geneva Convention and other international agreements.

He pointed out that the Arab citizens under Israeli occupation are firmly determined to end the occupation of all Arab territories. He added that the repressive Israeli practices will not remove these citizens' pan-Arab aspirations to realize the legitimate rights of the Palestinian Arab people but rather will consolidate their adherence to their own land and national soil.

Referring to Israeli human rights violations in the occupied Syrian Arab Golan heights, the assistant foreign minister spoke about the repressive Israeli practices that have become more aggressive and arrogant through annexation, building of settlements, mass arrests, oppression, persecution, house arests, the storming of houses, curfews, and the policy of economic pressure to deny the Golan inhabitants their daily means of subsistence.

Al-Fattal asserted the deterioration of the health, educational, cultural, and labor conditions in the Golan as a result of Israeli practices which aim to remove the inhabitants' pan-Arab character and strip the Syrian Arab people of their pan-Arab, historic, and cultural roots, and also of their link with their Syrian Arab homeland.

The committee expressed its thanks and appreciation for the Syrian Arab statement which explained the Israeli practices in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

The committee also voiced appreciation for the information and data submitted by the Syrian Arab side to support its report which will be submitted to the UN General Assembly. This report will reflect what is taking place in the occupied Arab territories. It is noteworthy that the Israeli authorities have been preventing this committee from visiting the occupied Arab territories since it was formed in 1968.

Received by Foreign Minister

JN2605194488 Damascus Television Service in Arabic 1730 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' today received the president and members of the committee entrusted with investigating the Israeli practices against human rights in the occupied Arab territories. The meeting was attended by Diya'ullah al-Fattal, assistant foreign minister.

The minister explained to the committee members the Israeli violations and savage practices against Arab citizens under occupation. He stressed the importance of the popular uprising in the occupied Arab territories which has affirmed the Arab citizens' determination to end the Israeli occupation in all occupied Arab territories.

The president and members of the committee praised the information and documents submitted to them by the Syrian Arab Government on Israel's violations in the occupied Arab land.

Officials Dismissed, Jailed for Corruption

PM2505141788 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 24 May 88 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Four Imprisoned and 13 Dismissed in Syria in New Campaign Against Corruption"]

[Excerpt] Damascus, AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT—A Syrian official has said that 4 employees have been sent to prison and 13 others working for state establishments concerned with supply in the rural area around Damascus have been dismissed after being caught red-handed selling consumer commodities on the black market during the blessed 'Id al-Fitr holiday.

The official informed AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT that these people had managed to sell 1,400 tins of butter after tampering with coupons allocated for the distribution of consumer commodities to citizens.

The authorities concerned have arrested and dismissed from service those who helped the traders carry out their acts. As for the traders, they have been sent to prison for venality.

The official added that 2 weeks ago nearly 20 employees were referred to a disciplinary council after the central authority for control and inspection received reports and convicted them of crimes involving dishonesty and the disruption of work in their departments.

Last year the central authority dismissed 500 people and referred them to the Economic Security Court for bribery and stealing public money. [passage omitted]

Paper on U.S., Israeli Roles in Lebanon

JN2705070188 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 27 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] Gentlemen: Under the headline "Syria Will Not Permit a Loophole in Lebanon," the newspaper AL-BA'TH says in its editorial today: Zionism always attempts to work its covetous strategy through inter-Lebanese fighting and also through U.S. support for Israel, the bayonet and tool of Zionism.

Moreover, Zionism shares with the United States the view that the so-called Israeli security can be achieved by military superiority. Zionism has taken advantage of the loopholes in the Arab body due in the large penetrations by U.S. diplomacy.

AL-BA'TH adds: Syria, which voluntarily agreed to be the tool of pan-Arab action and the force rejecting all that conflicts with pan-Arab will, has found itself with a single option: defending the Arab body wherever there is a bleeding loophole, such as in Lebanon.

The U.S.-Israeli wager on keeping the Lebanese loophole a bleeding wound is not a transient issue because the United States and Israel realize that Syria can be harmed via the Lebanese loophole.

By doing so, the two strategic allies may fulfill their hopes for imposing a fait accompli on the whole Arab nation.

Concluding, AL-BA'TH says: The only option for us in this country is to support Lebanon to the extent that we are eager to confront the growing Zionist danger.

Through this danger, Israel seeks to strengthen itself after it has been exhausted on the practical and media levels by the stone-throwing revolution in the occupied homeland.

Paper Cited on Israeli 'Aggression' in Lebanon

JN2605081888 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0445 GMT 26 May 88

[From the press review]

[Text] In its editorial today, the newspaper AL-THAWRAH deals with the Israeli aggression against, and the need to liberate southern Lebanon. The paper affirms that the savage ground and air aggression against southern Lebanese villages once again reveals the grave dangers posed by the continued Israeli occupation of part of southern Lebanon, as well as the need to intensify efforts on all levels to achieve Israeli withdrawal from, and end any Zionist influence in Lebanon.

This aggression, the paper adds, confirms that Israel is the basic enemy of all the Lebanese and that Israel is only interested in killing the Lebanese and involving them in the crematorium of fighting.

Also, Israel is interested in crude interference in Lebanese affairs, in sabotaging and destroying Lebanon, and preventing and impeding any efforts to save Lebanon.

This fact, which all the Lebanese realize and to which some try to turn a blind eye, whether intentionally or not, raises the issue of liberating southern Lebanon from Israeli occupation as a pressing nationalist Lebanese task.

This task should unify the efforts of those who are faithful to Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arabism, especially since there has been conclusive evidence that the Israeli schemes aim to split Lebanon and kill its people. Israel's use of fragmentation bombs to bombard Lebanese villages and civilians during its savage aggression yesterday is not new.

The Lebanese national resistance and the steadfast southern Lebanese citizens gave the most splendid examples of heroism when they confronted the Zionist aggression yesterday and waged fierce battles with knives against the Zionist aggressors and their agents.

This affirms the importance of rallying around the Lebanese national resistance and supporting the steadfastness of its masses. It also affirms the need to unify all the sincere nationalist efforts in the battle against the Zionist enemy with the aim of accomplishing the first mission represented by liberating southern Lebanon.

Exhausting any nationalist efforts away from this battle will weaken the confrontation of the Israeli occupation and will also provide an atmosphere for Israel and its agents to play their aggressive and subversive role against Lebanon and its people.

Concluding, AL-THAWRAH says: Syria, which strongly and firmly supports Lebanon and its nationalist forces which fight the Zionist enemy, will continue its consistent support for the Lebanese resistance.

Syria will also continue its constructive efforts to mass all nationalist capabilities in the battle against Zionist occupation in a way that will provide the necessary requirements to liberate southern Lebanon and attain national reconciliation among the Lebanese on the basis of maintaining Lebanon's unity, independence, and Arabism and foiling the imperialist and Zionist schemes against Lebanon.

Afghanistan

Najibullah Appoints Prime Minister Designate
LD2605163388 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 May

[Text] The office of the president of Afghanistan has informed BAKHTAR that the following decree has been issued by Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan, on the appointment of the prime minister designate:

To further implement the national reconciliation policy, in accordance with the authority bestowed on me by the constitution, and in accordance with paragraph three, Article 75 of the Constitution, esteemed Dr Muhammad Hasan Sharq has been appointed prime minister designate, thus enabling him to form a new government and to present it and the domestic and foreign policy of his government to the Wolasi Jirgah [People's Assembly] at the first session of the legislative term.

I am fully convinced that with the formation of the new government, which will be a coalition government, the ground will be prepared for the participation of all the country's political forces who are prepared to cooperative in the present historic and sensitive time to ensure national reconciliation and peace and the cessation of war.

[Signed] Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

Keshtmand Awarded State Honor, PDPA Post
LD2605174888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was held today. Taking into account the forthcoming session of the Meli Shura [National Assembly] and the composition of the new government, the Politburo discussed issues in this regard.

The Politburo expressed thanks and profound appreciation for the work and activities of Esteemed Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, in the post of prime minister of the Republic of Afghanistan over the past 9 years for the duties he fulfilled under difficult conditions. The Politburo recommended that the country's highest decoration, the Sun of Freedom, should be awarded to him.

The Politburo decided that, based on Sultan 'Ali Keshtmand's vast experience in party affairs, he should be a secretary of the PDPA Central Committee. It was decided that the issue of his election to this post should be presented at the next PDPA Central Committee plenum.

French Envoy Arrives With Message for Najibullah
LD2605201588 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Gilbert Perol, special envoy of French President Francois Mitterrand, and secretary of the French Foreign Ministry, arrived in Kabul this morning carrying a message from His Excellency Francois Mitterrand addressed to Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

He was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by the Afghan Foreign Ministry head of protocol.

According to another report, Muhammad Faruq Karmand, deputy foreign minister, met Gilbert Perol this afternoon in his office.

Najibullah Pardons French Journalist Guillo
BK2705113288 Hong Kong AFP in English 1116 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 27 (AFP)—President Najibullah Friday granted a pardon for imprisoned French photojournalist Alain Guillo, reliable sources said here Friday.

Mr. Guillo, given 10 years in January on spying charges which he denied, will be released from prison on Saturday, the sources said.

Mr. Najibullah confirmed the pardon at a 30-minute meeting here Friday with a French special envoy who arrived here on Thursday with a special message from President Francois Mitterrand.

Gilbert Perol, secretary-general at the French Foreign Ministry, is to escort Mr. Guillo home on Saturday, the sources said.

The message from President Mitterrand requested a pardon for Mr. Guillo on "humanitarian grounds." No political considerations were involved, the sources said.

Mr. Guillo was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment on January four by a special revolutionary tribunal which convicted him of spying and subversive activities.

He is one of two Western journalists serving jail terms in Afghanistan.

Italian journalist Fausto Biloslavo, 24, sentenced to seven years in jail on the same charges in March, is expected to be freed next week.

A special Italian Government mission is expected to arrive here either on Sunday or Monday to secure Mr. Biloslavo's release, sources said.

Pakistan Allegation of Air Raids 'Unfounded'

LD2605173188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1030 today and was told the following by the head of the First Political Directorate:

Recently, the charge d'affaires of the Afghan Embassy in Islamabad was summoned to the Foreign Affairs Ministry of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan and was told of allegations that on 25 April, 7 May and 9 May, 1988 the Air Force of the Republic of Afghanistan had attacked the regions of Teri Mangal in Khurram Agency, [placename indistinct], (Mishwani) and [placename indistinct] in Chitral, and that the Afghan artillery had attacked the region of Landi Khana, Khyber Agency, on 27 April.

The relevant authorities of the Republic of Afghanistan report that after a full investigation of these allegations by the Pakistani authorities, the above-mentioned accusations are found to be completely untrue.

The Republic of Afghanistan hopes that such unfounded allegations by the authorities of the Republic of Pakistan will not damage the efforts of Afghanistan aimed at normalization of relations between the two countries.

Najibullah Speaks at Revolutionary Council Session

LD2605201688 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] An extraordinary session of the Revolutionary Council of the Republic of Afghanistan was held this morning at Delkosha Palace under the chairmanship of Esteemed Najibullah, president of Afghanistan.

The session began with the recitation of verses from the holy Koran, and in accordance with the agenda it then discussed a number of draft laws and amendments. A number of legislative decrees were also approved.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that the session discussed draft laws on the organization and authority of courts and prosecutors' offices on the Council of the Constitution, on passports and land taxation; a draft amendment to the income tax law; a draft on tax exemption for Qandahar Province's private investors; a draft approval of legislative decrees which have been approved by the Council of Ministers and which have been presented to the president for his assent; a legislative decree on an amendment to Article 7 of the law on rights and privileges of the wounded and disabled and survivors of the martyrs of the April Revolution; a legislative decree on an amendment to paragraph 1 of Article 23 of the Prisons Law; a legislative decree on the cadastre and survey law; and a legislative decree on the medals, badges and honorary titles of the Republic of Afghanistan. The session unanimously approved all the drafts by issuing a number of resolutions.

The Revolutionary Council also approved the new administrative unit known as Sar-e Pol Province and issued a resolution in this regard. The Revolutionary Council also discussed organizational issues and made decisions on them.

In accordance with a proposal from the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Afghanistan, the meeting approved the merger of the domestic and foreign trade ministries into a new ministry.

President Najibullah delivered a speech at the end of the extraordinary session of the Revolutionary Council, and said:

[Begin recording] Esteemed members of the Revolutionary Council:

The work of the extraordinary session of the Revolutionary Council has ended. In fact, it is the last session of the Revolutionary Council. There are only a few days left before the opening of the Meli Shura [National Assembly].

Therefore, I want to mention a few points in connection with the many years' work and activities of the Revolutionary Council, which has been the highest legislative body of state power.

As we all know, the Revolutionary Council was formed during the very first days of the revolution as the country's highest legislative and state power. With the issuance of the Basic Principles in April 1359 [corresponds to 1980] as a temporary constitution for the country, the Revolutionary Council's responsibilities and activities were (?approved) but certain changes were also made in its structure and composition.

The Presidium of the Revolutionary Council was formed as its permanent active body, in order to resolve the most important state issues. And in accordance with Article 44 of the Basic Principles, all the responsibilities of the Revolutionary Council were transferred to the Presidium in the period between council sessions.

The Revolutionary Council and the Presidium have played a worthy role during the years of revolution in consolidating state power, expanding the social bases of state sovereignty, completing its structure and activities, and in completing a new legislation system.

During its existence, the Revolutionary Council assessed the most important issues related to state activities by holding 32 ordinary and extraordinary sessions and made valuable decisions in resolving important issues.

Each year the state budget and the country's socioeconomic development plan were discussed and approved in Revolutionary Council sessions. The Revolutionary Council approved important documents for the establishment of peace and security in the country and also for the consolidation of international peace.

The famous declaration of the Revolutionary Council was issued on 22 Aqrab 1364 [13 November 1985] on the consolidation and expansion of the social basis of sovereignty. The Revolutionary Council approved in Jawza 1360 [June 1981] the general amnesty decree which is still in force.

Since its formation The Revolutionary Council, and during periods between its sessions, the Revolutionary Council Presidium, have approved important legislative documents, including regulations and decrees, by holding 298 sessions.

These have been very valuable in consolidating the legality of state bodies and the general political system of the country and in improving their activities and composition.

The Revolutionary Council and its Presidium, based on Chapters 7 and 8 of the Basic Principles, have led the orderly activity of the courts and the prosecutor's office.

They formed the country's legal bodies in the framework of the Supreme Court, the Supreme Court of the Armed Forces, and the Special Revolutionary Court; and have approved regulations related to them.

Also, the prosecution bodies of the Supreme Prosecutor's office, the General Prosecutor's office of the Armed Forces, and the special Revolutionary Prosecutor's office were formed and regulations relating to them were approved.

The activities of the Revolutionary Council and its Presidium entered a new stage after the national reconciliation policy was proclaimed. The Revolutionary Council's activities in creating the legal basis and principles of the national reconciliation policy are praiseworthy.

During this period, more than 66 legislative documents, including laws and decrees, have been approved in various spheres in light of the national reconciliation policy.

We can mention the decrees on amnesty, on returnees, on pardoning the debts of the returnees, and laws on the social and political life of society, all of which have played an important role.

Among them, the Law on Political Parties, the Press Law, the Law on the Organization of Land and Water Relations have been approved.

Esteemed members of the Revolutionary Council of the Republic of Afghanistan:

We should mention the activity of the permanent commissions of the Revolutionary Council in connection with the council's work and activities. The four commissions of the Revolutionary Council, which have been formed since the end of 1364 [corresponds to 1986] in the spheres of legislative affairs, planning and budget, social and culture, and foreign affairs have been able, in a short period of time, to assess the issues related to their sphere of activities and to make serious decisions concerning them.

The permanent commissions' work experiences have been especially useful in assessing the activities and work methods of the state bodies.

Esteemed members of the Revolutionary Council:

In a few days time the first session of Meli Shura of the Republic of Afghanistan will be held. With its formation, the work of the Revolutionary Council, which was carrying out the duties of a National Assembly based on Article 146 of the Constitution will terminate. Certainly in future work, especially in the work and activities of the high legislative body of the country, the positive accumulated experiences will be (?utilized).

We express profound appreciation to all the party and state leadership, to the esteemed members of the Revolutionary Council, to the Presidium and its apparatus for the effective fulfillment of their duties. We rightfully commend the best workers. [end recording]

Mujahidin Report Casualties at Herat Depot Blast

BK2605155088 Hong Kong AFP in English 1542 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 26 (AFP)—Several hundred people are believed to have died or been injured when dissident officers blew up an Afghan Army ammunition depot in the western city of Herat, a mujahidin group said here Thursday.

In a statement, the moderate Jamiyat-e Eslami said three dissident Army officers were responsible for the blast Sunday, and named them as Jalil Ahmad, who it said engineered the operation, his deputy Sharif Jan, and Ghulam Jilani.

The officers, with the 11th regiment of the Army's Herat Division, planted a time-bomb in the depot which destroyed the entire stock of arms and ammunition, Jamiyat-e Eslami's commander in the area, Esma'il Khan, said in the statement.

He said he was still waiting for news of casualties, but said the officers responsible believed the total could be counted by the hundreds.

The blast followed by a series of secondary explosions showered Herat with rockets, missiles and shells for more than three hours within a radius of 10 kilometers, resistance sources had said Tuesday.

They said they believed casualties could include civilians as well as army personnel inside the depot located seven kilometres from the city.

The Jamiyat-e Eslami statement quoted the officers as saying that the depot had recently been re-supplied with arms and ammunition.

Destroyed in the explosion were 250 machine guns, three 76-mm howitzer guns with 50,000 rounds of ammunition, 100,000 boxes of ammunition for big cannons, as well as 10,000 boxes of rockets, 20,000 mortar shells, 20,000 boxes of ammunition for Kalashnikov assault rifles and 10,000 boxes of hand-grenades.

Some 28 tanks and 48 armoured vehicles used to fight the guerrillas in the region near the Iran border, were also damaged, the rebel statement said.

The explosion coincided with a rebel rocket and missile attack on the Soviet-manned Shindand Air Base near Herat, the statement said, adding that two aircraft were destroyed in the operation.

2 Aircraft Damaged at Shindand

BK2705025488 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 27 88

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say there was a major blast in the ammunitions depot in Afghanistan's western city Herat causing heavy losses of lives and property.

It is understood that three dissident officers of the Kabul administration's Armed Forces planted a time bomb in the depot, completely destroying it.

The blast, followed by a series of secondary explosions, showered Herat with rockets, missiles, and shells for more than 3 hours up to a radius of 10 km from Herat.

This blast was synchronized with mujahidin rocket and missile attacks on Soviet military personnel deployed in Shindand airport near Herat, damaging two aircraft.

150 Antipersonnel Mines Discovered in Kabul

LD2605170088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The country's security forces have discovered another treacherous plan by the extremist elements in Kabul city and have foiled it. BAKHTAR's military section reports that 150 antipersonnel Bat mines brought into Kabul city by the extremists were discovered today by the security forces.

These mines had been placed in six boxes which were hidden in various places around the 1st district of Kabul city. The plan was foiled before the extremist elements could put their sinister conspiracy into practice.

Surface-to-Surface Missiles Seized in Meymaneh

LD2605205988 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The country's Armed Forces, continuing their activities in the areas around Faryab Province, crushed a 25-strong warmongering group linked with the extremists which had been disrupting the peaceful life of the people of Meymaneh city by firing surface-to-surface missiles and heavy weapons.

According to a report by BAKHTAR's military section, in the course of this combat operation which was carried out at the request of the people of Faryab Province yesterday in areas around Meymaneh city, heavy losses of life were inflicted on the extremists. The Armed Forces seized four launch systems for the surface-to-surface missiles together with their missiles.

The report adds that during this operation five DsHKs and tens of various types of weapons and a number of hideouts of the extremist elements were destroyed.

'Extremists' Attack Qalat With Rockets 26 May

LD2705140088 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Extremist opposition groups, resorting to another barbaric act in the surroundings of Qalat city, have caused loss of life and property.

BAKHTAR's military section reports that yesterday, these criminals attacked residential areas of Qalat city, Zabol Province, with ground-to-ground rockets, killing one person and injuring several of our compatriots. The report adds that several shops were destroyed.

'Extremists' Fire Missiles on Residential Areas

LD2600210400 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] BAKHTAR's military section reports that extremists fired surface-to-surface missiles on the residential areas of the Asmar and Sarkani districts and the Narang subdistrict in Konarha Province yesterday. As a result, an innocent compatriot was martyred and three others were badly injured.

The report adds a number of houses were damaged by shell fire.

It is worth mentioning that during the last 2 weeks, the criminals belonging to the extremists groups have intensified their destructive activities and have continued firing on residential areas in the country.

At the same time, large amounts of arms and ammunition are being delivered to Afghanistan via Pakistan, putting a seal of approval on Pakistan's nonobservance of some of the Geneva accords.

Paper on Pakistani Violations of Geneva Accords

LD2705092188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0439 GMT 27 May 88

["Clouds of Distrust"—BAKHTAR headline]

[Text] Kabul, May 26, BAKHTAR—The world people understand it very well that the Republic of Afghanistan has been fulfilling all its commitments enshrined in Geneva accords with a sense of responsibility.

The sincere cooperation of the Afghan side with the United Nations mission is testifying to this fact, writes daily HAQIQAT-E ENQELAB-E SAWR.

However, it should be said with regret that Islamabad not only has not acted for the fulfillment of its commitments but it also instigates the subversive actions carried out by certain circles in Islamabad, adds the daily.

It is amazing that Mr. Junejo boasts of peace in the world but his government in action has not taken any steps for the return of Afghan refugees and has slowed down the peace process.

Junejo says that the Geneva accords is a horizon of hope and peace but it is faced with clouds of distrust and uncertainty. The question arises here that what these clouds of distrust are and who have caused such clouds.

The answer can be found in the action of Islamabad. If the Government of Pakistan could take an action similar to that of the Government of Afghanistan these clouds of uncertainty could certainly be removed from the atmosphere of relations of the both countries.

However, the Pakistani side not only makes pretexts on the return of refugees but has violated the other dimensions of the Geneva accords. This is the reason that the Afghan authorities have informed the United Nations Good Will Mission in Afghanistan and Pakistan based in Kabul about the nature of such violations.

The prime minister of Pakistan, the daily points out, claims that the Afghan refugees will not return home. Such assertions from a head of a government whose foreign minister has signed the Geneva talks proves by itself who is going to cause distrust.

According to available information the refugee camps have been besieged by seven army sections of Pakistan and the extremists based in Pakistan making it impossible for the refugees to escape from the camps.

The Afghan side expects the Pakistani side to replace its irresponsible assertions with responsible action in favour of giving effect to the provisions of Geneva accords, the daily concludes.

Acting National Assembly Presidents Elected

LD2705063188 Kabul BAKHTAR in English
0503 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Kabul, May 26, BAKHTAR—Both houses of National Assembly held their preparatory sessions today.

The preparatory session of the Senate elected Halaluddin Badri, representative from Balkh Province, as temporary president and secretaries of the Senate were also elected.

Fourteen senior senators were also elected as members of the commisison to assess senators documents.

In the first preparatory session of the House of Representatives, Sayyed Muzafaruddin Shah, deputy of Kabul city, was elected as temporary president of the House of Representatives.

Temporary secretaries were also elected. The session elected 24 deputies of the House of Representatives as members of the commission to assess the documents of the deputies to the House of Representatives.

Secretaries Elected

LD2705090888 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] Preparations for holding an Afghan National Assembly session which is due to be held soon in Kabul, were discussed today at primary sessions of the House of Representatives and the Senate, in accordance with Chapter 3 of the National Assembly Law.

Membership credentials of the administrative delegations, and plans for the first session of the legislative period of the House of Representatives and the Senate at the National Assembly headquarters were discussed.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that at the preliminary Senate session it was proposed that in accordance with National Assembly Law, the oldest senator should be elected as temporary chairman of the first sessions, and the youngest Senate members should be elected as temporary secretary of the first Senate session.

As a result, Haji Qandahari, representative for Paktia, aged 85 years, and the eldest senator in the Senate, requested, on health grounds, that another senator be elected as the temporary chairman of the first Senate session.

Halaluddin Badri, representative of Balkh in the Senate, aged 70 years, was elected as temporary chairman, and Fazil Ahmed, son of 'Abdul Karim, senator from Ghowr, aged 30 years, and Muhammad Rasul, son of Barat, senator from Balkh, aged 30 years, were elected as temporary secretaries to the first Senate session until elections for the permanent chairman and secretaries of the house are held. [passage omitted]

The BAKHTAR correspondent adds that the first primary House of Representatives session, which was held in accordance with the National Assembly law.

Sayyed Muzafaraddin Shah Muzafari, representative of Kabul city, aged 69 years, was unanimously elected temporary chairman of the first session. Zora, aged 21 years, representative of Kabul city, and Samad Karmand, aged 25 years, representative of Kabul city, were unanimously elected as temporary secretaries of the session. [passage omitted]

Briefs

New Paktia Governor

Brigadier General Barakzay, the new governor of Paktia Province, was introduced today to the personnel of the province's state organs, elders, and leaders of the various tribes by Brig Gen Zabihullah Ziarmal, general head of the Army Political Affairs Department. The new governor of Paktia, while expressing his thanks for the confidence shown in him by the state leadership, promised not to spare any patriotic efforts for the cause of peace and tranquillity in the country. [Text] [*LD2705005188 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 26 May 88*]

India

20 Workers Injured in Bomb Blast in Punjab

BK2705031988 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] In Punjab, a hardcore terrorist, Avtar Singh, was killed in an encounter with security forces in Kapurthala District last night. The encounter followed a raid by the security forces on a terrorist hideout in village Biharipur. Avtar Singh was involved in a number of terrorist crimes.

Terrorists shot dead a shopkeeper near village Ranipur in Kapurthala District and a farmer in village Panduritakhtmal in Amritsar District. In another incident, 20 persons, mostly laborers, were injured in a bomb blast in a vegetable market in Phagwara town of Kapurthala District.

Ordinance Issued on Misuse of Religious Places

BK2605151088 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The president has promulgated an ordinance seeking to prevent the misuse of religious places for political and illegal purposes. It prohibits the use of religious places and its funds for any political activity.

The ordinance also prohibits the use of religious places for harboring any person accused or convicted of an offense or for storing any arms or ammunition or keeping any goods and articles in contravention of any law in force.

Erection or putting up of any construction or fortification including basements, bunkers, towers or wells without a valid license or permission have also been prohibited.

The ordinance, called the Religious Institutions Prevention of Misuse Ordinance, 1988, also prohibits carrying on of any unlawful or subversive act at religious places or acts which promote or attempt to promote disharmony or feelings of enmity, hatred or ill will between different religious, racial, language and regional groups or castes or communities.

The ordinance prohibits carrying on of any activity prejudicial to the sovereignty, unity, and integrity of the country or any act in contravention of the provisions of the Prevention of the Insults to National Honor Act, 1971.

Welcoming the ordinance, the Theruman Akali Dal has said that religion and politics should be kept separate and use of religion for political purposes should never be allowed.

In a statement in Faridkot today, the party president, Mahant Sevadas Singh, alleged that the present SGPC has failed to discharge its responsibilities toward preserving the sanctity of gurdwaras [Sikhs temples], particularly the Golden Temple complex.

The mahant demanded the immediate dissolution of the SGPC and the constitution of a board to manage the affairs of gurdwaras. He also said concrete steps should be taken to prevent the reentry of terrorists, antinational elements, and illegal weapons inside the complex.

Home Secretary Comments

BK2605162787 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 88

[Excerpts] The president today promulgated an ordinance prohibiting the misuse of religious places and their funds for any political activity and other purposes. It also prohibits the use of religious places for harboring of any person accused or convicted of any offense, storing of any arms or ammunition or for keeping any goods or articles in contravention of any law.

The ordinance which comes into force at once extends to the entire country except the State of Jammu and Kashmir.

Briefing newsmen about the provisions of the ordinance, the home secretary, Mr Somiah, said that in the context of separation of religion from politics, the question of prevention of misuse of religious institutions for political and other purposes has been engaging the attention of the government for some time.

The prime minister and the home minister had assured parliament that necessary legislation would be enacted. Mr Somiah said in view of the recent happenings in Punjab and other parts of the country, the need had arisen to check this misuse. [passage omitted]

The ordinance makes it obligatory for the religious institutions and their managers not to allow the entry of any arms or ammunition or of any persons carrying them into such places.

However, carrying of kirpans [Sikh symbolic swords] or other arms used as part of religious ceremony or ritual have been exempted. The contravention of these provisions by the manager of a religious institution will be punishable with imprisonment up to 5 years and fine up to 10,000 rupees.

In case of conviction, the manager should stand removed from his post of office. He will be disqualified for appointment in any religious institution for 6 years. The home secretary told newsmen that a bill to replace the ordinance will be introduced in the next session of parliament.

Replying to a question, Mr Somiah said the government is also considering the amendment of the Arms Act. He made it clear that the present ordinance applies to all religious institutions, including Sikh shrines.

Replying to another question, Mr Somiah said that the ordinance does not allow any political party to have an office inside a religious institution.

About handing over of Golden Temple in Amritsar to the SGPC, the home secretary said this issue should be decided separately. He said the SGPC must first show willingness to keep gurdwaras free of terrorists and arms and ammunition. [passage omitted]

The National Security Act, 1980, applicable to the state of Punjab and the Union Territory of Chandigarh, has been extended for 1 more year. An ordinance to this effect was promulgated by the president today. The period of the act was to lapse on the 8th of next month.

PATRIOT Views Talks With Pakistan

BK2605102188 Delhi PATRIOT in English
18 May 88 p 4

[Editorial: "Futile Meeting"]

[Text] The three days of talks of the Home Secretaries of India and Pakistan in New Delhi appear to have been a fruitless exercise. The heightened tensions on the border and the events in Punjab had lent this meeting much significance.

It was hoped that Pakistan would allay India's serious concerns about increasing evidence of Islamabad's complicity in the crimes being committed in Indian Punjab.

This has not happened. Pakistan has agreed to joint patrolling of "selected sensitive areas" to check trans-border movements of terrorists, arms and ammunition, accepting the Indian position that arms are flowing in from Pakistani territory into Punjab.

But even a cursory examination of the published account of the Delhi meeting will show no progress towards confidence building or improvement of bilateral relations.

Indeed, much of what has been discussed and said in New Delhi now was gone over much in the same manner during the two-day talks the two countries' Home Secretaries had in Lahore in December 1986.

Even then, as now, Pakistan agreed to joint surveillance and mechanism to strengthen cooperation between the border security forces in controlling "illicit" border crossings, drug trafficking, smuggling of arms and terrorism.

It has also stated its opposition to "all forms of terrorism in Punjab and elsewhere" and reiterated that it did not and would not provide any support to "terrorism directed against India."

While much that was agreed to in Lahore has remained only on paper, it is a telling comment on Pakistan's "commitment" to adjure support to terrorists that eighteen months since then have brought the AK-47 assault rifles and rocket launchers across the border.

The upgradation of terrorists' weapons has been effected through Pakistan's involvement. India this time insisted on "translation of assurance into action", demanded Islamabad hand over some hardcore terrorists living in Pakistan and immediate trial of those who hijacked the Indian Airlines plane in February 1986.

On its part, this time in Delhi, the Pakistani delegation tried to do one better on Islamabad's earlier unsubstantiated allegations of India's hand behind the upswing in the Movement for Restoration of Democracy and the Sind riots.

It alleged the Indian government's "involvement" in the Karachi riots against Muhajirs. This, after the affirmations of President Ziaul Haq and Premier Junejo to the contrary, as anyone would see, reduced this meeting to a slanging match.

Under these circumstances, the Government would be well advised to take international opinion into confidence before it decides on its own independent course of action.

Commentary Notes Alleged Pakistan Missile Test

BK2605131588 Delhi General Overseas Service
in English 1330 GMT 26 May 88

[Commentary by Dr C. Rajamohan of the Institute for Defense Studies and Analysis in New Delhi]

[Text] The recent report in THE NEW YORK TIMES that Pakistan has test-fired a missile capable of delivering nuclear weapons on to New Delhi and Bombay is curious in many ways.

THE TIMES, citing unnamed Pakistani sources, says the missile has been indigenously developed with the assistance of Chinese experts. The report states that the testing took place in Thar Desert on 15 April and has been confirmed by unnamed sources in the Reagan administration.

THE TIMES report has been denied in Islamabad, Beijing, and Washington, but this does not mean we have heard the last word on the issue. Our experience since the early 1980's shows the unveiling of the massive clandestine nuclear program of Pakistan bit-by-bit.

The leak to THE NEW YORK TIMES could indeed be the latest in the ongoing nuclear striptease by Pakistan. China, too, is known to deny even confirmed sales of arms and equipment. Recall the Chinese denials of its sale of Silkworm missiles to Iran. Yet there are some inconsistencies in THE TIMES report.

The Pakistani claim that the missile is indigenously developed appears dubious. Pakistan does have a small space program under which some sounding rockets have been launched, but there is no evidence to show that Pakistan has had a serious program to develop missile technology; nor have there been signs of indigenous scientific and technological potential to do so.

In the past, Pakistan had attempted to acquire such missiles from the now-defunct (Morwik) West German outfit, called (OTR AG). If the assertion of THE TIMES that Pakistan now has components for 42 missiles is true, these must have been transferred by China.

THE TIMES also says there are two types of missiles — one of 80 km range and the other of 300 km. There were shock waves around the world in March when it was disclosed that China had sold a number of medium-range missiles to Saudi Arabia.

The Chinese East Wind [as heard] missiles sold to Saudi Arabia have a range of about 2,000 miles. At that time, Indian defense analysts had speculated that Pakistan must have brokered this deal between China and Saudi Arabia who do not have diplomatic relations.

It was also suggested that it was only a short time before Pakistan itself acquires such missiles. Their predictions are beginning to prove correct. China and Pakistan have had a deep and durable strategic relationship since the early 1960's.

China has been the reliable supplier of arms and equipment to Pakistan since the mid-1960's. Since the early 1980's, evidence has accumulated on the Sino-Pak nuclear relationship.

China is reported to have transferred one of its nuclear weapon designs to Pakistan. Chinese nuclear technicians are reported to have been present at the secret Pakistani enrichment plant located near Kahuta.

In recent past, China has sought to extend its influence in the Persian Gulf-West Asia region through dramatically stepped up sales of arms. Ironically, it was Israel, through (?another) clandestine network that has helped China to upgrade its defense wares, now openly exhibited for export.

While the possibility of Chinese missile sales to Pakistan has been in the cards, the timing of the leak to THE NEW YORK TIMES is nevertheless intriguing. It has occurred at a time when the defense minister of Pakistan is in Washington to negotiate a package of American military assistance and at a time when General Ziaul Haq is preparing to visit Beijing where he is scheduled to arrive on 30 May.

The story is perhaps a calculated leak to demonstrate Pakistan's strategic options in the period that is to follow the Soviet withdrawal of its troops from Afghanistan.

It is a signal to indicate that Sino-Pak strategic nexus is an abiding one to be maintained at an ever-higher profile than ever before. It could be a hint to the Soviet Union that it would have to think twice in responding to Pakistan's violations of the Afghan settlement.

The move could also be a tactic to influence the current bargaining between Islamabad and Washington over the future of their military relationship. It is a signal to Washington that Pakistan has other options if there is any attempt to scale down American military commitment to Islamabad in the post-Soviet withdrawal phase.

As far as India is concerned, it is clear that the transfer of Chinese missiles to Pakistan would imply a further strengthening of Pakistan's nuclear capability. Pakistan would now have an additional means of delivering nuclear weapons, supplementing nuclear-capable aircraft it already has.

From a larger point of view, it is clear that missile technology has begun to spread all around our neighborhood—in Israel, Saudi Arabia, and Pakistan. India has no options but to strengthen its own missile capabilities in this context.

Iran

'10,000' Iraqi Casualties in Shalamcheh Battle

LD2605210388 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The Joint Staff of the IRGC has announced: The Zionist Ba'thist enemy attacked the operational area of Shalamcheh on Wednesday. It met with the resistance and bravery of the fighters of Islam, the selfless mobilization forces, brave IRGC, and other popular forces.

In the course of the clashes on Wednesday and Thursday, with the bravery and steadfastness of the forces of Islam, severe casualties were inflicted on the Ba'thist enemy and over 10,000 [as heard] of them were killed or wounded and a considerable number of their tanks, vehicles, armored equipment, and personnel carriers were set on fire. The fighters of Islam are currently continuing engagement with and resistance to the enemy from new positions.

In a statement the IRGC Joint Staff asked mobilization volunteer forces to go in great numbers to the battlefronts. The IRGC's districts and bases and the ranks of the IRGC's mobilization resistance are prepared throughout the country for the enlistment and dispatch of volunteer forces.

Communique No 3,214 Details Raids, Clashes

LD2605153488 Tehran IRNA in English 1522 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 26, IRNA—Iranian Air Force jets carried out their routine patrol missions over the Persian Gulf and the Gulf of Oman Wednesday in support of the Navy, reconnoitering 15 vessels, a communique released by the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said here Thursday.

The 3214th Joint Staff communique said that Iran's naval units, in addition to controlling shipping in the Strait of Hormuz, monitored movement of foreign vessels in the Persian Gulf yesterday.

Exchange of artillery and mortar fire continued throughout the battlefields Wednesday, raging somewhat more heavily in Shalamcheh and Zayd, southern sector.

In Zayd, southern fronts, a group of Iraqi soldiers attempted to infiltrate Iranian positions with support of warplanes and chemical shells but their progress was blocked thanks to the vigilance and firm resistance of Iranian counterparts.

An undetermined number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and several enemy bunkers, some vehicles and a loader destroyed throughout the battlefields in artillery duels with Iranian combatants.

Some Iraqi patrol units, attempting to penetrate Iranian forces' positions in Qasr-e Shirin and Nahr 'Anbar, western sectors, sustained heavy casualties and were forced to flee Wednesday when hit by Iranian artillery fire.

On Wednesday, Iranian Gendarmerie forces traded artillery fire with Iraqi troops in parts of the southern and western fronts, killing a number of enemy soldiers and setting ablaze four bunkers and gun emplacements of theirs.

In Sumar, Mehran and Helaleh, western sector, Iraqi logistical operations were halted and some enemy vehicles set ablaze by Iranian artillery fire yesterday, concluded the communique.

Iranian Air Force jets heavily bombed Iraqi troop concentration sites in Shalamcheh operational theater at 10:58 hours local time (07:28 GMT) Thursday, inflicting substantial losses in men and equipment on the enemy. All jets returned safely to bases after successfully carrying out the mission.

Speedboats Reportedly Attack Maltese Ship

LD2705110688 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] According to REUTER, shipping sources in the Persian Gulf report that speedboats today attacked a ship, flying the Maltese flag, in the Strait of Hormuz, setting it on fire.

According to the report, the 18,000-tonne "Don Miguel" was hit at 0815 local time. The crew, mostly South Korean nationals, abandoned the vessel after fire broke out.

This attack took place 13 hours after an earlier attack by speedboats on a Liberian vessel.

Besharati Summoned to Tehran From Beirut

JN2605184388 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 24 May 88 p 30

[Text] Beirut, AL-ANBA'—Iranian Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammad 'Ali Besharati has left Beirut for Tehran via Damascus. It was reported that he was summoned by the Iranian Foreign Ministry following Syrian statements. He was replaced by Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam.

The decision to withdraw Besharati from Lebanon was made due to statements he made which included strong criticism of the Syrian decision to enter the southern suburb.

Sheykh ol-Eslam Recounts Fadlallah Meeting

LD2605175688 Tehran IRNA in English 1740 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 29, IRNA—Deputy Foreign Minister for Political Affairs Hoseyn Sheykh ol-Eslam, currently in Beirut to sew up differences between Lebanese warring groups, in a statement released Thursday expressed hope that the clashes would end shortly.

Sheykh ol-Eslam praised efforts of all parties involved to end the clashes in southern Beirut, and called on all sides to cooperate to put an end to the regrettable confrontations.

The Iranian official met Alallamah Sayyid Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah to discuss the latest developments in the Lebanese capital.

The two sides also hoped that the Amal and Hizballah forces would feel themselves bound to the agreement and prepare the grounds for unity of all forces for a final battle against the Zionist enemy and the world arrogance.

Velayati Receives Message From Brazilian Official

LD2605154188 Tehran IRNA in English 1524 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Tehran, May 26 IRNA—Brazilian Foreign Ministry's Director-General for African-Middle Eastern Affairs Amaral Sampaio, who arrived here Wednesday night, met with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati here Thursday.

In the meeting, Sampaio submitted Velayati a message from his Brazilian counterpart inviting him to pay an official visit to Brasilia.

He also announced his country's interest in having long-term friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response, Velayati underlined the need to increase contacts between Brazilian and Iranian officials and to upgrade the level of mutual economic relations.

The foreign minister expressed hope that he could pay a visit to Brasilia at a proper time.

Pre-Election 'Rumor-Mongering' Assailed

NC2605113088 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 26 May 88

[Commentary by the Central News Unit research group]

[Text] In the name of God, the almighty, the merciful. With each day that passes after the elections for the third Majlis session and as we get closer to the inauguration of the third session, we can see more clearly the helplessness of the enemies of Islam, particularly their propaganda weaknesses.

During the recent elections, the propaganda weaknesses and helplessness of the arrogant factions were so great that those factions incurred notable disgrace, leading to some projections on the possible replacement of some mass media officials.

Actually, everything placed at the disposal of foreign propaganda trumpets has proved useless during the past couple of months. Foreign propaganda failed to achieve the positive reaction the world-devourers hoped for, and actually caused them irreparable damage.

In the weeks before the elections (?to the third session) of the Majlis, the arrogant factions put all their efforts into preventing the people's vast participation in the elections. Along with the missile attacks on the cities, the enemies of Islam began an extensive and coordinated propaganda effort. Under this false propaganda—unprecedented, in the opinion of many experts—they started their activities.

Because they could find no obvious points of weakness among the Islamic factions and because everything pointed to a successful election, the enemy had no alternative but to begin spreading rumors.

Propaganda trumpets and foreign radios did their best with this rumor-mongering, exploiting any rumor they thought they could disseminate.

Along with the dissemination of these rumors before the elections, news agencies attempted something else which further revealed their treacherous nature to everyone.

Before the elections, the foreign mass media spread their lies under the label of news reports, an attempt to give the enemy information on the areas where missiles and bombs had struck.

This rumor-mongering revealed their true nature and could no longer be justified. However, under those conditions, the enemies of Islam had no other alternative but to react as they did.

The successful elections for the third session of the Majlis, and the very fact that these elections were held despite the years of imposed war, were the best proof of the stability of the Islamic Republic's system.

Our Muslim people confronted the false propaganda with unprecedented firmness and resistance, displaying patience and taking appropriate steps against each rumor that was published.

Finally, despite the efforts by the arrogant machinery and their disbelief, the elections were held, very spectacularly, in two stages. The representatives of the people who follow the line of the imam were elected to the Majlis in healthy and calm elections.

The disbelief of the arrogant powers over the successful completion of the elections was so great that all their propaganda strategies and coordination crumbled, particularly when the rumors they spread before the elections were proved erroneous, one after the other, to everyone.

Meanwhile, each and every Iranian realized the weakness of the propaganda trumpets and of those who financed them. They could see the value of the Islamic Republic's system and the weakness of its enemies.

After a few days of confusion, the foreign mass media resumed its treacherous activities, hoping that the people had forgotten their previous lies. They did not know our people had not forgotten their treachery and their helpless rumor-mongering.

This time the propaganda machinery resorted to another method. During every election, there are some candidates who lose. Knowing that their possible dissatisfaction may be exploited to create strong controversies, the machinery started its fresh propaganda.

This propaganda, which will definitely be discredited, alleges that unidentified sources claim that bloody clashes have broken out in some Iranian cities, that Iranians are at each other's throats, and that deep conflicts have emerged among them.

How dishonorable can a foreign radio be? If the errors of these radios' former rumors had not been proved, then we may have thought they would achieve some results with their fresh round of lies.

However, those who run these hireling radios know that they have been completely disgraced; their attempt to resort to such lies may stem from past grudges.

The repetition of mistakes by the arrogant propaganda machinery and the concoction of false reports actually reveal the impasse reached by those running this machinery and their masters who, despite their destructive military strength and various potentials, must bow to the grandeur of an Islamic revolution.

Their weakness are also revealed, although they do not want to admit it. This has become quite obvious to everyone due to their recent futile attempts and concoctions.

Flag of Freedom on Escalation of Unrest in Cities

NC2705123888 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] According to reports from Tehran, the situation there is uneasy and our compatriots in Tehran seem more apprehensive than before. Defeats in Shalamcheh and Al-Faw have broken the back of a falsehood-disseminating regime, which has constantly claimed victories in the war against Iraq.

The Islamic Republic's leaders are in the throes of confusion and do not know what to do to divert the people's attention. The Iranian regime's consecutive defeats are not hidden from anyone.

People, particularly in Tehran, seem to think that something is going to happen and consequently are filled with a sense of foreboding. Some speak of a coup d'etat, but all seem unanimous on the need for a general uprising against the clerics' regime, which all are dearly hoping for.

Our co-combatants from Tehran reported that Tehran was tense once again yesterday, and that people held anti-regime street demonstrations in some parts of the city.

This report states that the people present in Vali-'Ahd Square shouted slogans against the Islamic regime and against the continuation of the war. They showed their opposition to the regime by shouting "Death to Khomeyni," and "Long live Reza Shah."

In these demonstrations, the people unanimously shouted "We are not afraid of missiles and we are not afraid of Khomeyni either!" Gunfire was also heard in Vali-'Ahd Square during yesterday's demonstrations.

Another report from the capital states that the IRGC seems to be sympathetic to the people, as they refrained from becoming involved with the demonstrators yesterday and showed great restraint.

It is being said in Tehran that the IRGC is gradually realizing that the Islamic regime has been lying to them from the very beginning. Most of the Guards say the ruling clerics send them to the fronts to get killed, while they, themselves, ride in bulletproof automobiles worth millions of tomans and have accumulated immense wealth.

Another report from the capital states that patriotic residents of west Tehran hoisted the Iranian tricolor flag with the lion and the sun [of the monarchy] over the Karaj Bridge and distributed color photographs of Reza Pahlavi, the Iranian king, to the people.

In these demonstrations, the people's slogans were "Death to Khomeyni," and "Long live Reza Shah." The demonstrations continued for quite a while and received a tumultuous welcome from the people.

Briefs

Musavi at Gold Factory

Esfahan, May 23, IRNA—Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi broke the ground for 'Muteh' gold processing factory, the second in the country, here today. The total deposits of the mines have been put at 1.2 million tons of gold ore with an assay of four grams per ton. The mines are expected to yield over five tons of pure gold, and the factory is to concentrate daily 200 tons of ore to produce some 1,000 grams of gold. [Excerpts] [*LD2405004688 Tehran IRNA in English 1739 GMT 23 May 88*]

Mineral Extractions

According to officials of the Sarcheshmeh copper mines in Kerman Province, processing of gold and silver has begun on an experimental basis in connection with mines week. By-products such as nickel and alloys are also produced and marketed. In the past year exports from this mine earned $144 million in foreign exchange. During the past year the 30 mines in Zanjan Province produced 860,000 tons of minerals, including lead oxide, zinc, kaolin, silicates, feldspar, industrial clays, limestone, and salt as well as stones suitable for use in construction. This output earned $5 million in foreign exchange. The Semnan Mines and Metals Department extracted 20,000 tons of chromite, which is of superior quality and will be exported. [Summary] [*NC2405082288 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 24 May 88*]

Pakistan

Iranian Commerce Minister Discusses Trade
LD2505201188 Tehran IRNA in English 1805 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] Islamabad, May 25, IRNA—The Iranian commerce minister, currently here on an official visit, said in a press conference Wednesday that a total of two million tons of goods needed by Iran will be imported annually via Pakistani ports to Zahedan in southeastern Iran.

Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari also said that he and his entourage had explored ways of promoting Tehran-Islamabad commercial ties and increasing volume of mutual trade exchanges during their meetings with Pakistani officials.

Among other topics discussed between the Iranian delegation and Pakistani officials were border trade exchanges between the two countries and tripartite exchanges within the framework of the economic cooperation organization (ECO), he said. Iran, Pakistan and Turkey are members of ECO.

The commerce minister said the Islamic Republic will import annually one million tons of its needed commodities via Karachi port and that the figure will increase to two million once preparations are made for their transportation.

With regards to current fluctuations in Tehran-Islamabad trade exchanges the Islamic Republic has proposed that the two countries sign three or five year-long agreements instead of the existing one-year-long ones in order to preserve the volume of trade exchanges, Ja'fari said.

The two sides have also reached agreements in principle that Pakistan carry Iranian goods to a third country and in return transport goods needed by Iran from that country to Iran, he said.

Abedi-Ja'fari added that the two countries have also agreed to increase the annual ceiling of trade exchanges via their neighboring provinces (Baluchestan) to 100 million Pakistani rupees each from the current 20 million rupees.

On Iran's policy of increasing its non-oil exports, Abedi-Ja'fari said the amount of non-oil commodities exported abroad over the past few years has reached $1.15 billion from the previous $320 million.

He said Iran has offered a list of non-oil commodities it can export to Pakistan and is waiting for Islamabad's decision.

In response to a question as to the discount given by Iran on its oil exports to Pakistan, Ja'fari replied that in view of the friendly relations between the two Muslim countries, Iran has made necessary considerations to this end. The commerce minister and his entourage left here for Lahore this afternoon.

Abedi-Ja'fari arrived here Monday night at the head of a nine-man delegation. During his two day stay in Islamabad, the commerce minister met with President Ziaul Haq, the minister of commerce and planning and the premier's adviser for agricultural affairs.

Increase in Border Trade
BK2605050188 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Iran's Commerce Minister Dr Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari has said a memorandum of understanding on trade finalized between Pakistan and Iran will expand bilateral trade five-fold, leading to the exchange of new items and an increase in border trade.

Addressing a news conference in Islamabad yesterday, he said Pakistan and Iran have agreed in principle to sign barter protocols with a third country to meet each other's requirements in the field of trade.

He said an understanding has also been reached to ship 10 lakh tons of goods to Iran through Karachi and Bin Qasim ports. The quantity of the goods can later be increased up to 20 lakh tons.

Meets Chambers of Commerce Head
BK2605153988 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The visiting Iranian commerce minister, Dr Hasan Abedi-Ja'fari, has said that Iran desires to purchase rice, wheat, and sugar from Pakistan. During a meeting with the president of the members of the executive committee, Lahore Chambers of Commerce today, he said there are wide prospects for expanding trade and economic ties between the two countries.

Defense Studies Forum With PRC Ends 26 May
BK2605154588 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The Pakistan-China 3-day bilateral forum concluded in Islamabad today. Members of the institutes of defense strategic studies from Pakistan and China discussed matters of bilateral interest at the forum sessions.

These included the Afghanistan situation after the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the Gulf situation, Indian military preparations, and the Southeast Asian situation. Pakistani and Chinese scholars read papers on the occasion and took part in a general debate on the issues.

The members of the Chinese team visited the area studies center of Qaide Azam University and Punjab University before leaving for home.

Talks Held With India on Wular Barrage Issue

BK2605031088 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] Official-level talks between Pakistan and India on the construction [by India] of the Wular barrage on the Jhelum River were held in Islamabad yesterday in a cordial and friendly atmosphere.

A.R. Mahbub, secretary in the Ministry of Water and Power, led the Pakistani side; his Indian counterpart, Naresh Chandra, headed his country's delegation at the talks.

The Pakistani side emphasized that India should keep the construction of the barrage on hold until an agreement is reached on this issue. The Indian delegation later met Sardar Wazir Ahmed Jogezai, the minister for water and power, and exchanged views with him on matters of mutual interest.

Foreign Secretary Abdus Sattar will pay a 3-day visit to New Delhi, beginning Tuesday [31 May], for secretary-level talks. It has been officially stated in Islamabad that he will hold discussions with his Indian counterpart K.P.S. Menon on bilateral, regional, and international issues.

These talks are part of a series of negotiations between the two countries on the foreign secretary level.

Editorial Lauds Meeting With Indian Secretary

BK2505141988 Karachi DAWN in English 21 May 88 p 11

[Editorial: "India-Pakistan Ties: New Efforts"]

[Text] Indo-Pakistan relations have never been noted for their stability or a rational pattern of development. They have followed a zigzag course, with a period of tension being invariably followed by a flurry of diplomatic activity aimed at normalising ties and easing strains.

The meeting of the Home Secretaries of the two countries in New Delhi last week represents the ascending part of the process, with efforts being made to repair some cracks and smooth out ruffled feathers.

Ten days ago the Indian Foreign Secretary was in Islamabad to talk about regional matters in the context of the Geneva accords on Afghanistan.

On May 19 and 20, the Defence Secretaries of India and Pakistan met to sort out their differences on security issues. These talks constitute a renewed effort for normalisation which has been in a state of suspension for a long time.

The initiative, if it is sincerely meant, deserves to be welcomed in both countries. Given the traditional mistrust and antagonism between them, it is necessary to keep the lines of communications open, so that misunderstandings and lack of contacts do not worsen the already strained relations.

As it is, the list of charges and countercharges that vitiate relations between the two countries is long and at times looks unending. Illegal arms trafficking and drug smuggling across each other's borders, the Siachin Glacier, the Wular barrage, Pakistan's nuclear programme and arms acquisitions are just a few of the major issues dividing the two neighbours and keeping them perpetually in an adversary relationship.

Hence, a dialogue between them at all levels, even if there is no positive outcome in all cases, is beneficial because it helps prevent accumulation of tension and misunderstanding and their impact on the political environment in the region.

The Home Secretaries discussed the measures needed to contain trans-border terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling and illegal border crossings. It would be recalled that the two officials had met in December 1986 and set up committees to revise the border ground rules and devise ways of combating drug smuggling.

But obviously these committees have failed to make any progress. The ground rules committee has now been asked to meet within three months to complete its task.

The need to check interstate border smuggling and other illegal activities does not brook delay, given the charges the two governments have been making against each other on this score.

While India believes that Pakistan's involvement in the Sikh troubles in East Punjab is indisputable, our own experience of New Delhi's meddlesome interest in Sind has not been very happy and this interest is known to be growing.

This has created serious misgivings here about India's intensions which, in matters pertaining to Pakistan, have not always been above board. In such a situation the need to draw up ground rules to check arms trafficking and smuggling across the border could not have been more urgent. This offers the only effective method of checking illegal border crossings.

When rules have been framed and are enforced in a spirit of sincerity, it should be possible to ensure that undesirable activities of the kind that are alleged to be taking place can be stopped.

If the committee which has been set up acts expeditiously and the pronouncements contained in Monday's communique on good-neighbourly and cooperative relations are not mere diplomatic cliches, it should not be too difficult to remove the current suspicion on both sides about their being involved in instigating terrorism and subversion in each other's border regions.

Paper Analyzes Outcome of Talks With India

BK2605100988 Karachi NAWA-I WAQT in Urdu 22 May 88 pp 3, 6

[Editorial: "The Meeting of Interior Secretaries"]

[Text] Many important issues have been discussed during the 3-day talks between the interior secretaries of India and Pakistan. If, instead of adopting its past attitude, India sincerely complies with the finalized procedure to settle those issues covered during the discussions, good results can be obtained.

During these talks, the two sides agreed to revive the India-Pakistan committee to contain terrorism, drug trafficking, smuggling, and incidents of illegal border crossing, and to finalize the rules and regulations drafted in 1960-61 and again in 1981-82 on these issues.

This agreement reflects the efforts of both countries to improve relations in light of new realities. They have also agreed to conduct joint patrols on the border to control illegal crossings until these issues are finally settled.

For a long time now India has been accusing Pakistan of providing arms and training to Sikhs. However, now this agreement on joint border patrol vindicates Pakistan's claim that Islamabad is not involved in any of these activities.

In fact, many of the saboteurs now active in Pakistan have been sent by India, and the smuggling of consumer goods, particularly butter oil, from Pakistan into India is now a routine matter.

Still, the Indian leadership and media still persist in their one-sided propaganda campaign against Pakistan that says that even though the Indian complaints are totally untrue, New Delhi will not be satisfied with any explanation or action because it is pursuing a predetermined strategy.

A joint border patrol in Punjab is a good idea, but why not extend the patrols to Rajasthan and other areas as well? The impression one receives from the current decision is that the aforementioned measures have been taken only to check infiltration into Punjab from the Pakistan side, but no serious step has been taken to keep India from dispatching its agents through Bahawalpur, near the Sind border, into Pakistan.

In this way, the outcome of the recent negotiations cannot be described as fair nor 100 percent successful. In the face of continued disturbances and subversive activities in Karachi and theft incidents in Sind, the establishment of a cordial relationship between India and Pakistan is only a dream.

Editorial on New Prospects for Ties With USSR

BK2505152588 Karachi DAWN in English 22 May 88 p 7

[Editorial: "Pak-USSR Ties: A New Phase"]

[Text] The decision of the governments of Pakistan and the USSR to set up a joint ministerial commission is a positive move in the context of the two countries' bilateral relations.

An outcome of the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs' recent goodwill visit to Moscow, the significance of this development derives from the desire on both sides to step up the level of mutual cooperation.

The joint commission would facilitate contacts and communication between the member parties and promote closer relations between them. However, even in the absence of a joint commission, Islamabad and Moscow have maintained a degree of economic and technical cooperation in periods when their political ties have been marked by tension and misunderstanding.

Trade has been growing—the latest protocol provides for an exchange of 68 million dollars worth of goods in 1988—and Soviet economic and technical assistance for a number of projects in Pakistan has continued to flow in spite of the ups and downs in their mutual relations.

With the Soviets having offered aid for Pakistan's Seventh Five-Year Plan, the area of economic cooperation should widen. The proposed joint commission should prove instrumental in strenthening this cooperation.

The real significance of Mr Zain Noorani's Moscow visit, is, however, political. It indicates the willingness of the two governments to review their bilateral ties, which had for many years been under the shadow of the Afghanistan crisis.

Economic cooperation could be sustained during this difficult period because of the tacit understanding between the two sides to keep economic ties insulated from political factors and considerations.

Otherwise their ties had taken on an antagonistic aspect as a consequence of the developments in Afghanistan. The Geneva accords and the beginning of the process of withdrawal of Soviet troops from Afghanistan promise to change the security environment in South-West Asia which should have a beneficial effect on the political equations in the region.

In this altered context, it is but logical for different countries to undertake a review of their relations. In fact, the basic weakness in Pakistan's policy vis-a-vis the Soviet Union over the years has been a lack of planned strategy based on some guiding principles.

Often, Islamabad failed to take the initiative and tended to react to outside developments over which it had practically no control. It is encouraging that Pakistan and the USSR have now decided to forge closer cooperation and develop ties on a basis of mutuality of interest.

It would be unrealistic, however, to ignore the developments in Afghanistan, especially the continuing hostilities in that country. But Moscow and Islamabad can at least try in a concerted manner to implement the Geneva accords in good faith.

The underlying spirit of the accords must be respected and efforts made to end the conflict in Afghanistan. An improvement in the geopolitical environment should facilitate the strengthening of understanding between Moscow and Islamabad.

By the same token, closer political understanding should also have a favourable impact on the security climate in Afghanistan. Moreover, Mr Mikhail Gorbachev's Glasnost has ushered in a new era in Soviet foreign policy, as Moscow has initiated a diplomatic offensive to place its ties with its neighbours and the major powers on a new footing.

This has spelt the beginning of a new phase in global politics which Pakistan can ill-afford to ignore.

Government Said To Buy 50 Mirages From Australia

BK2705091588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 27 May 88

[Text] Pakistan is reported to be buying 50 Mirage-3 fighter aircraft from Australia. It is negotiating with the Royal Australian Air Force for these aircraft, each costing $1.38 million. Australia is said to be in a position to deliver the aircraft to Pakistan almost immediately.

Sri Lanka

New Indian Army Chief To Arrive for 1-Day Visit

BK2505113488 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] India's new Army chief of staff, General Vishwanath Sharma, is due to arrive tomorrow for a 1-day familiarization visit. Indian High Commissioner J.N. Dixit said General Sharma will call on President Jayewardene and General Cyril Ranatunge, general officer commanding Sri Lanka's joint operations command. The Indian high commissioner said that this will be a courtesy call.

The Indian general will visit Jaffna and Batticaloa Districts. It will be General Sharma's first visit to Colombo since he took over from General K.S. Sunderji this month.

The sources said that Indian defense minister, Krishna Chandra Pant, is also expected to visit Sri Lanka soon.

Visits Trincomalee, Batticaloa

BK2505162488 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 25 May 88

[Text] The chief of Army Staff, General V.N. Sharma, made an on-the-spot study of the situation in Trincomalee District today. He was briefed about the situation and various operations being conducted by the PKF [peacekeeping force] in the district.

General Sharma visited Pankulam and addressed the officers and jawans [soldiers] of the PKF. Later, General Sharma visited Batticaloa District.

Calls on President Jayewardene

BK2605162588 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 26 May 88

[Text] The chief of the Army staff, General V.N. Sharma, called on the Sri Lankan president, Mr Jayewardene, in Colombo this evening. He was accompanied by the Indian high commissioner, Mr J.N. Dixit.

On his first visit to Sri Lanka since he took over as the Army chief, General Sharma is scheduled to meet the defense secretary and chief of the Sri Lankan Joint Operations Command tomorrow.

Meanwhile, fighting between the PKF and the LTTE continued south of Adampil in the northern district of Mullaitivu. The PKF discovered three more camps of the LTTE and engaged them.

It is estimated that 36 militants have been killed and 45 wounded so far. An LTTE van loaded with ammunition was also blown up. In the clashes 10 PKF soldiers have been killed and 21 wounded.

In the southern districts of (Nambantotha) and Matara life was today disrupted by suspected extremists of Janatha Vimukti Peramuna (JVP) [People's Liberation Front].

Shops were also closed in some areas. Reports say JVP extremists blocked roads and burned vehicles and government vehicles. They also stormed a number of offices. Our correspondent says the violence by the JVP is probably aimed at disrupting the forthcoming provincial council elections.

Leaves After 3-Day Visit

BK2705111288 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1026 GMT 27 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 27 May (LANKA PUWATH)—General V.N. Sharma, chief of the Army staff of the Indian Army, left Sri Lanka this afternoon after a three-day visit to the island.

The Indian Army chief called on Sri Lankan President J.R. Jayewardene yesterday. This morning, he called on chief of the Joint Operations Command [JOC] General Cyril Ranatunge at the JOC headquarters in Colombo, official sources told LANKA PUWATH.

General Sharma flew into Palaly Airport in Jaffna Tuesday and visited Indian Peacekeeping Force (IPKF) units in the peninsula. He later visited other operational areas in Trincomalee, Batticaloa and Vavuniya.

People's Liberation Front Incites Students

BK2605132088 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1110 GMT 26 May 88

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, May 26 (LANKA PUWATH)—The Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP) [People's Liberation Front] terrorists have this week engaged university students who are members of the JVP to visit schools in many parts of the country and incite schoolboys to boycott classes and commit acts of mischief, police told LANKA PUWATH today.

They said that students in a number of schools had boycotted classes since yesterday after they were addressed by JVP cadres who were university students. This was part of a JVP master plan to cause chaos and disrupt the law and order situation in the country.

Police said the JVP was also responsible for several acts of arson in the deep south including the burning of a transformer at Wetiya, the setting ablaze of a school office in Binkama, the setting on fire of the office of the assistant commissioner of agrarian services in the village of Luname in Tangalle, the burning of a tractor in Angunakolapalessa and placing obstructions like branches of trees on roads at Ghatamodera and Ranna.

A report from Matara states that a gang of six southern terrorists fired at the home of J.G. Sugundasa at [word indistinct] town last night with T-56 rifles. Mr Sugundasa, a UNP provincial council candidate for June 9th southern provincial council elections, was reported unhurt. His security guards had returned the fire of the raiders.